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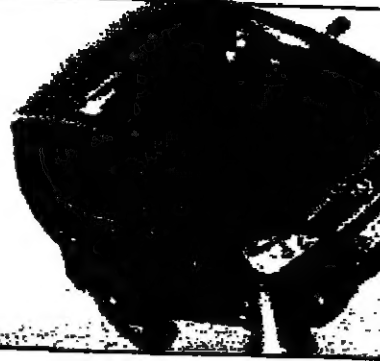
THE TIMES

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 1997

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No. 66,046

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Tension at top London college
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BEST FOR
"Come up and quote me sometime..."
Derwent May on who said what
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BEST FOR JOBS
WANTED
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Secretary 42K
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32 PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS

Labour sought advice on second gift

Formula One chief offered new donation

By Andrew Pierce and Philip Webster

BERNIE ECCLESTONE was proposing a second big donation to the Labour Party on top of the £1 million he gave in January, it emerged last night.



Labour briefings since last week have talked of the possibility of "further donations", but have at no time suggested that Mr Ecclestone had already made a specific offer.

Neither Tony Blair nor other Labour leaders have made any public mention of a second gift during the turmoil of the past few days - although the party raised it with the standard watchdog Sir Patrick Neill last week.

Ecclestone: second gift offered after election

Even before the disclosure of the second donation, the Prime Minister was being accused in the Commons of presiding over a Government in chaos and turmoil.

In a letter to Sir Patrick last Friday, Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, asked for guidance on the £1 million received from the Formula One supremo and then added that Mr Ecclestone had "since the election offered a further donation".

Senior Labour sources have confirmed to The Times the references to the second donation in Mr Sawyer's four-page letter. That said: "This approach distinguishes between a pre-election donation which, of course, was not a factor in the Government's decision to exclude Formula One, which was taken exclusively in the national interest as the Government judged, and the receipt of post-election donations where an appearance of conflict of interest might be thought to arise."

Labour sources were unable to say when Mr Ecclestone made the second offer. But it was clearly a deeply sensitive issue, given last week's decision to exempt Formula One from a proposed ban on tobacco advertising and Mr Blair's meeting with Mr Ecclestone at Downing Street on October 16.

Members of the Public Standards Committee have privately voiced unhappiness that the full contents of the letters have not been published, but the decision is one for Labour since it wrote to Sir Patrick in confidence.

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There was also fresh doubt over the tobacco policy last night after Mr Blair indicated his willingness to meet leaders of other sports keen to win the same concessions as those granted to motor racing.

Woodward's surprise exit
Louise Woodward made a surprise dash from her hotel in Boston yesterday and was taken by ferry across the Charles river to an unknown destination.

He also confirmed that Sir Patrick's committee would investigate party funding and consider whether donations and spending should be limited. He said that political parties could be required to compete on equal terms.

Vernon Bogdanor, page 20
Letters, page 21



Ronnie Biggs, who sobbed with delight at the Brazilian court's decision and sent a message of thanks to the British people for their support

Court says Biggs is free to stay in Rio

By Stewart Tendler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

RONNIE BIGGS, the great train robber, will see out his days in the safety and warmth of Rio de Janeiro after Brazil yesterday turned down Britain's application to bring him back to finish his 30-year prison sentence.



They can keep him as far as I am concerned. Biggs, now 68, has been a fugitive since he escaped from Wandsworth prison in July 1965 after being jailed for his role in the £2.6 million cash robbery from a mail train in Buckinghamshire.

back to Britain failed when the Brazilians were told that his girlfriend was pregnant: under local law he was protected as the father until the child was an adult.

The Brazilian Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Biggs cannot be sent home, despite a new extradition treaty which came into force this summer. The court decided that Biggs could stay because the treaty does not take precedence over Brazil's statute of limitations which discounts crimes committed more than 20 years ago.

Malcolm Fewtrell, the 88-year-old former head of Buckinghamshire CID, who was involved in the arrest of Biggs, said: "I am not a bit surprised at this decision. Quite honestly, I cannot see the point of bringing him back, with the prisons so overcrowded. Brazil have had Biggs for 27 years."

The original British police wanted poster

Convicted in 1994, Biggs climbed over the prison wall using a rope ladder and then dropped on to the roof of a waiting van in July 1965. He fled to Australia after a £40,000 fee and lived there with his family.

In 1978 Biggs made a record. No One is Innocent, with the punk band the Sex Pistols. He also raised money by selling T-shirts depicting himself and by exploiting his notoriety to entertain Japanese tourists.

Thousands of prisoners to be tagged and released early

By Frances Gibb and Richard Ford

THE Home Secretary and the Lord Chief Justice yesterday read the last rites over the Conservative "prison works" policy that has seen the jail population rise to record levels.

There is no argument that it has within it the scope for further significant development. It is now clear that sentences do see electronic monitoring as a viable alternative to custody in many cases.

Lord Bingham said that he had no doubt that the rise in prison numbers was caused by "the vocal expression of opinion by influential public figures that custody is an effective penalty".

Three thousand prisoners are to be freed early on electronic tags, and judges and magistrates are to be encouraged to make greater use of tagging and community punishment for non-violent offenders after Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said that the trend to favour custody was a "real source of concern".

The measure allowing for the early release of prisoners who have been assessed by the Parole Board and deemed no threat to the public is expected to become law next year.

The move reflects concern in the prison service and at the Treasury about the size of the prison population, which has risen by 12 per cent in the past five years to 63,271.

Jack Straw will announce his most controversial initiative next week when he gives details of his plans to tag thousands of prisoners and release them for the last three months of their sentences. And yesterday he paved the way when he told a probation conference in London: "Tag-

ging may provide a pathway for offenders leaving the order of prison to the potential disorder outside. There is no argument that it has within it the scope for further significant development. It is now clear that sentences do see electronic monitoring as a viable alternative to custody in many cases."

Lord Bingham emphasised that he was not talking about serious crimes where "no one doubts for an instant that sometimes very long sentences are called for", but the "middle class of case" where it was far from clear that custody was more effective than a

Brothers missing in 3,000-mile rowing race

By Damian Whitworth

A SEARCH was under way last night for two British brothers missing in treacherous seas in mid-Atlantic. The pair, competing in a home-made boat in the longest rowing race ever held, from Tenerife to Barbados, have lost contact with organisers.

The organisers, Sir Chay Blyth's The Challenge Business, said that the escorting safety vessel had sailed to the point where the emergency beacon signals had come from, but there was no sign of the boat. The vessel was standing by last night.

All ships in the area have been asked to watch out and a search plane from Lisbon is expected in the area. Contact had been lost with half a dozen boats during heavy conditions on Friday, with waves up to 25ft high, but automatic signalling from the other five boats had resumed.

One of the boat's sponsors, Nauticalia, a local boating business, said that the weather had been foul. Lynn Lewis, managing director of the company, said: "They have been rowing in 25mph winds and tough conditions. It is quite likely that their emergency signalling beacon has been washed away and started sending messages as a result of being submerged. We hope that they are rowing steadily on, blissfully unaware that they are the focus of a search."



The Boreham brothers in their boat

BREITLING
1884

Green light for housing in green belt

The Government has enraged environmental groups by announcing that it intends to go ahead with building 2.2 million new homes on farm land and in the green belt.

The groups wanted 60 to 75 per cent of the 4.4 million new homes scheduled for the next 20 years to be on abandoned urban land. But the Housing Minister said he would keep to the target of 50 per cent on previously developed land.

Page 4

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Some Oxford
spend £800 on

**The wily
fox that
went for
early bath**

Britain's urban foxes — estimated at 34,000 out of a national population of 240,000 — date from the spread of suburbia in the 1920s and 1930s.

are published in *The Times Best Sermons for 1998*, which like *The Times Book of Prayers*, a collection written by *Times* readers, is published this month by Cassell at £9.99. Each available at a £2 discount by calling 0900 34459.

In an interview in *Oxford Student* newspaper published yesterday, Legg described two drugs "scenes" at the university: the "surprisingly small" general circle and the "cocaine clique". "There is no archetypal 'druggie', they come in all shapes and sizes," said Legg, "I don't want to go back to a product, it must go gradually." "I would never have dared to do what I was doing by the end. I was making a weekly eight-hour round trip to London with over £1,000 of cash to spend. The cocaine and most of the Es were delivered to my door." Legg, a former pupil of

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Half of all new homes to be built in green belt

Minister says that pressure from environmental groups for urban renewal is unrealistic, report
Nick Nuttall and Rachel Kelly

THE Government is to go ahead with building 2.2 million homes on farm land and in the green belt.

Green groups had been pressing ministers to ensure that up to 75 per cent of the 4.4 million homes due to be built in the next 20 years would be on derelict and abandoned urban land.

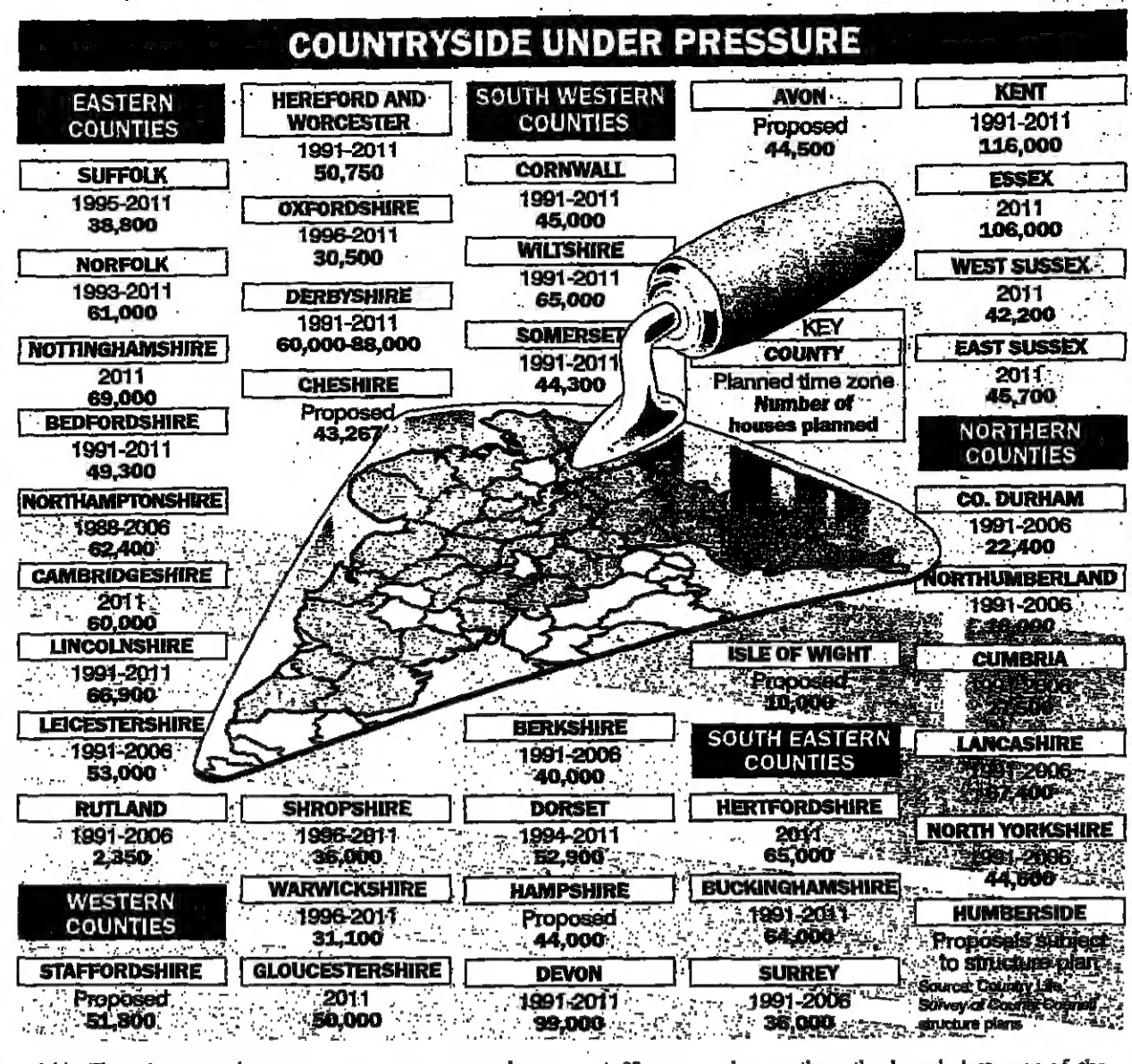
But yesterday Richard Caborn, the Planning Minister, dashed their hopes, insisting that he would keep to the last Government's target that 50 per cent of the housing would be on previously developed land.

The target is lower than the 60 per cent figure suggested in a Green Paper on housing development last year. But after consultation the Tories decided to opt for the 50 per cent target, according to a spokesman at the Environment Department.

Yesterday Mr Caborn told the House of Commons that the higher targets, although desirable, were not realistic. "The target for using previously developed land remains at 50 per cent. While it is true that the previous Government proposed a target of 60 per cent, we have not changed the target. I set it at 50 per cent. If we can achieve that and over I would welcome that."

It means that an area of countryside larger than London will be lost to development, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Mr Caborn's comments sparked anger among green



campaigners and opposition MPs, with accusations that the Government is anti-countryside.

The counties where most of the homes will be built on green-belt land are mainly in the South, South East and South West. Today water companies will give warning that counties in parts of the South can no longer sustain housing development because of a shortage of water supplies.

Simon Festing, housing campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "Labour's approach, on housing spells disaster for the countryside. To reject the commonsense alternative of urban regeneration through more housing is folly at such an early stage in the debate. Now we face ever-increasing urban sprawl."

Tony Burton of the Council for the Protection of Rural England said that building more homes in the countryside than was needed would also increase commuting, leading to increased emissions of carbon dioxide. This would make it harder for the Government to meet its ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gases by 20 per cent by 2010.

"It also flies in the face of all the research which shows that local authorities have barely begun to look at the capacity of their urban areas," he said.

Tim Yeo, the Conservative spokesman on the environment and former Environment Minister, said: "We are gobbling up land much too quickly. The only way to slow it down is to move the target up to 60 per cent and in the medium term to 75 per cent. I am confident that that figure is perfectly attainable with a change in policies on land use."

He said that there were already signs that the Government was prepared to sacrifice the green belt to development.

A spokesman from the Department of the Environment said: "The Government recognises that there is a growing concern about the green belt. But green belts have doubled in area during the

Kent takes brunt with 116,000 houses

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

THE Garden of England may become Britain's biggest building site with at least 116,000 homes expected to be built in Kent by 2011, an analysis of county council plans reveals.

The second worst affected county is Essex, where 106,000 new houses will be built, followed by Devon, where 99,000 homes are planned. The counties that will escape the bulk of new house-building include Durham, where only 22,400 homes are expected, and Cumbria, with 27,500 new homes expected by 2006.

In general, the survey found that the greatest pressure for homes will be on the South East, South West, East Midlands and Eastern regions with the North under the least pressure.

Clive Aslet, editor of *Country Life*, which published the survey today, said: "These figures are a uniformly dismal tally. Anyone who keeps their eyes open, travelling round the shire counties, will realise the damage that has already been wrought in recent decades. These plans show the blueprint for development in the future. Enough is enough."

The survey highlights the pressure on green belt land and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Government figures show that there will be 4.4 million new households by 2016 because

of the growing number of single people, the divorced, and elderly. The council's structure plans give developers an idea of where planning permission is likely to be granted.

Green belt land is threatened in Hertfordshire, villages on the Chiltern Downs in Buckinghamshire may be lost in urban sprawl, housing is expected to multiply near Stansted airport in Essex, and there are fears for green belt land in Northumbria.

New houses for commuters are planned in Durham, new towns are planned for East Sussex, and Devon villages may become large towns, the survey warns.

The Painswick Valley in Gloucestershire is under threat from Stroud District Council, which proposes to build 1,500 new houses. The valley is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty immortalised by Laurie Lee, and villages such as Dursley, Cam, and Painswick are expected to bear the brunt of Gloucestershire County Council's structure plan.

There are plans to develop green belt land surrounding Slough, where 40,000 hectares are to be released for 1,000 new homes. Several Berkshire greenfield sites have been earmarked, including Sandford, near Newbury, where 1,250 dwellings are expected by 2006.



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Animal rights activist guilty of firebomb shops blitz

By a Staff Reporter

AN ANIMAL rights activist who waged a one-man terror campaign against high street shops causing millions of pounds worth of damage was yesterday convicted of a series of firebomb attacks.

Barry Horne, who is unemployed, was unanimously convicted of arson attacks on shops on the Isle of Wight and of planting incendiary devices in the Broadmead Shopping Centre in the heart of Bristol between 1984 and 1985.

The jury also brought in unanimous guilty verdicts on five counts of attempted arson and being reckless as to whether life was endangered.

Judge Simon Darwall-Smith adjourned the case for pre-sentence reports until Friday December 5.

As he left the dock Horne, extended his right arm in a fist salute to a handful of friends in the public gallery.

Horne chose not to give evidence on his own behalf and no witnesses were called for the defence, but it was submitted for him that he had not been reckless and that he had not intended to harm anyone. Devices found in his possession were timed to go off after midnight, when shops would be empty.

Ian Glen, QC, prosecuting, told the jury that the fate of Wight Fire Services were stretched to the limit on the night of August 23, 1994, when shops were hit in Ryde and Newport on the Isle of Wight by firebomb attacks. The Fire Service had to call for reinforcements from mainland Hampshire. Dozens of people had to be evacuated from nearby premises but no-one was injured.

He maintained the attacks were an act of "political terrorism" in support of animal rights.

The jury heard that the worst-hit premises was Boots, in Newport, which was destroyed in a £2.8 million blaze.

Fire investigators recovered several firebombs which had failed to detonate. These were found when officers of the South East Regional Crime Squad arrested Horne after a



Horne left incendiaries

month-long surveillance operation.

Four cigarette-packet explosive devices were concealed inside his jacket and a police raid of his Birmingham flat revealed a further six of the same type.

After conviction the jury was told that Horne, 45, had previously been before the courts for his animal rights activities.

In September 1988 at Lancaster Crown Court he was given a six-month suspended sentence and ordered to pay £750 fines and costs for attempting to steal a dolphin from Marineland centre at Morecambe.

And in November 1991 he was given a three-year sentence for possessing an incendiary device - a plastic bottle with flammable liquid and a timer.

At Oxford Crown Court in February 1995 he was ordered to do 80 hours of community service for having taken part in violent disorder at a scientific conference in Oxford in September 1993.

Country house's price doubles to £12 million

By Rachel Kelly

A GRADE II listed house on the Thames was sold yesterday for £12 million, almost double its asking price, a City fund manager. The selling agents believe the sale is the largest price paid for a country house this year.

Culham Court is a late 18th-century Georgian house in Berkshire with 689 acres running down to the Thames, owned by a family trust of the Berens family, who made their money in banking. Its sale to Martyn Arbitt, chairman of Perpetual Fund Management Group, bears witness to the strength of the market for prime country houses to the west of London.

The house was originally priced at £6.5 million by Knight Frank in August to reflect the rarity of a house with so much land near



Culham Court estate is on the Thames near Henley

Henley. Interest from potential buyers was immediate. The house was sold to Mr Arbitt after strong competition from one other unnamed buyer.

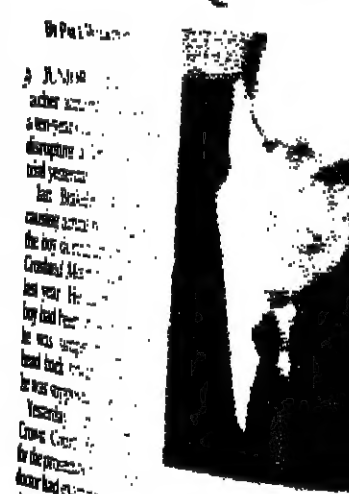
The sale was agreed after what the agents describe as "intense negotiation".

Rupert Bradstock, from the buying agents Property Vision, estimates that prices

of country estates have risen by 30 per cent this year. There is special demand for estates to the west of London because of access to Heathrow.

Mr Arbitt, 58, started Perpetual in 1973 in Henley and has built a business managing funds worth over £8.1 billion without uprooting to London.

Head is hitting u r



Head is hitting u r

Sacked smoker loses his case

Sacked smoker loses his case

Green belt

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KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

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Mrs Maine with Emma, Alice and Thomas. She used to gauge their moods by the looks on their faces

BY PAUL WHITTAKER

Hearing implant adds spice to life

AFTER 31 years in a silent world, the first sounds Suzie Maine heard were not exactly music to her ears.

"What a racket, there's no character to it at all," the 35-year-old mother-of-three said after a pioneering cochlea implant operation to restore her hearing gave her her first experience of music in the form of the Spice Girls album owned by her daughter Emma. But

hearing her children's voices for the first time evoked a flood of new emotions. Mrs Maine previously had to study the faces of Emma, 8, Thomas, 6, and Alice, 2, to interpret their moods. "It's absolutely brilliant and I can now tell

first person in the world to be fitted with the new type of implant. The device — which took a French company 18 months to make and cost £16,000 to develop — is the size of two 50p pieces put together. It contains three electrodes that stimulate the hearing nerve and feed sounds to the brain. Surgeons inserted it behind her left ear in a four-hour NHS operation at North Riding Infirmary in Middlesbrough.

Head is accused of hitting unruly pupil

By Peter Wilkinson

JUNIOR school head-teacher accused of assaulting a ten-year-old pupil who was disrupting a lesson went on trial yesterday.

Ian Blakeley, 47, denies causing actual bodily harm to the boy during an art class at Croftland Moor Junior School last year. He claims that the boy had been showing off and he was simply pushing his head back towards the work he was supposed to be doing.

Yesterday at Bradford Crown Court, Sean Morris, for the prosecution, said that a doctor had examined the boy's cheek the day after the incident and found it to be reddened and swollen.

Mr Morris told the jury that the boy, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was known for his disruptive behaviour. On December 16 Mr Blakeley, who had been head since 1993, took the class to cover for the usual teacher.

Mr Morris said: "The boy was playing up as he was wont to do. He was told to behave but he carried on. Mr Blakeley lost his temper and strode towards the boy, got hold of him, either by his jumper or with his hand under his chin, and slapped him with the other hand. The



Ian Blakeley and his wife Hazel at court yesterday

boy said that he slapped him across his face with the open palm of his hand and called him a squirt.

The boy told his father when he went home and his parent called in the police. Three days later Mr Blakeley was interviewed by Huddersfield police officers. He told them the boy was "sniggering and making noises".

Mr Morris said: "He said he went over to shout at him. He said, 'I don't normally shout but I did it deliberately to shock him. I got hold of his face because he was deliberately looking away from me. I pushed his face to direct him towards his work and said,

had not spoken to me before, he just went for me," he said. He said the teacher seized him by the neck, forcing his face up and then slapped him hard across the left cheek. "My neck was stinging all day and the next, and my cheek was sore."

Cross-examined by Jonathan Rose, counsel for Mr Blakeley, the boy admitted that he was in trouble most days. He denied that he had been showing off, or lying when he said that the teacher had hit him hard.

An 11-year-old girl from the same class said she had seen Mr Blakeley take the boy by the jumper after several classmates had complained about the boy putting them off their work. She said she saw the teacher hit the boy across the face. "I was shocked, the rest of the class went quiet. I didn't think Mr Blakeley would do something like that," she said. Cross-examined she agreed that it was not a hard blow. "It was a kind of push," she said.

Another classmate, who was aged 10 at the time, said in a video interview with police: "I didn't think Mr Blakeley hit him hard and I started to laugh. I didn't even think he had hit him. I heard no sound and I didn't see the boy cry."

Sacked smoker loses his case

By Simon de Bruxelles

A MAN who was sacked for smoking in his car in the company car park yesterday lost his claim for unfair dismissal.

An industrial tribunal ruled that the man's employer had the right to dismiss him for breaking a strict no-smoking rule. Craig Bowery, 23, a forklift truck driver employed by Anchor Foods, was sacked in June after he was spotted smoking in his car by a manager at the company's butter factory in Swindon, Wiltshire.

Amanda Sandford, of the anti-smoking lobby ASH, said yesterday: "I have a lot of sympathy with him. It is hard to just give up, because tobacco is very addictive. The fact that this man risked his job for that is very highlights this."

The tribunal in Bristol was told that the firm banded its 430 employees from smoking for hygiene reasons and ordered them not to leave the site during working hours.

Mr Bowery, a father of two

who had worked at the site for four years, told the tribunal: "The policy was totally ignored by a lot of people. About 50 per cent of the employees there smoke. I thought I would get a verbal warning but not be sacked. After all I was some considerable distance from where food is produced."

Colin Sara, the tribunal chairman, found that Anchor Foods was justified in sacking Mr Bowery. "It was made clear that smoking would not be tolerated," he said.

After the case Mr Bowery said: "Companies should set aside a room for people like us." Marjorie Nicholson, of the Freedom of Rights to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest), said last night: "This is outrageous. Smokers have rights, too, and companies need to accommodate them."

Martin Lorgan, for Anchor Foods, said the ruling vindicated the company's ban: "What is more important, hygiene or allowing employees to smoke in their cars?"

Gardener's home claim thrown out

By Joanna Bale

A GARDENER who worked for seven years without pay for a wealthy widow who promised him he would inherit her house, but then secretly changed her mind, lost his claim at the High Court yesterday.

Robert Taylor was expected to inherit Gertrude Parker's £250,000 bungalow and its half-acre garden in Crowthorne, Berkshire, where he had worked for 21 years. He now faces legal costs of up to £75,000.

Judge Weeks ruled that there was no law forcing anyone to keep a promise. Although Mrs Parker had promised Mr Taylor in 1983 and 1991 that she would be making a will in his favour, he said: "There is a difference between saying you will make a will and saying you will not revoke it. There was nothing unfair, unjust or morally objectionable to Mrs Parker's change of her will in 1995."

In that will Mrs Parker, who died the follow-

ing year aged 86, left the bulk of her estate to Margaret Bosher, one of her carers, and £1,000 to Mr Taylor, who acted as a carer in the last years of her life.

The judge said Mrs Parker believed that Mrs Bosher was "more likely to carry out her wishes" and live in the house rather than sell it to developers. "What could be criticised was not telling Mr Taylor at the time when he was working without pay on the understanding that he was to inherit the home."

But he said that this "certainly did not entitle" Mr Taylor to the house. After the hearing, Mr Taylor, 57, from Camberley, Surrey, said that the costs would "clean me out", adding: "She basically used me. She was frightened that if I stopped going there she would have to go into care."

Mr Taylor said after the judgment that Mrs Bosher had said she would make him an offer.

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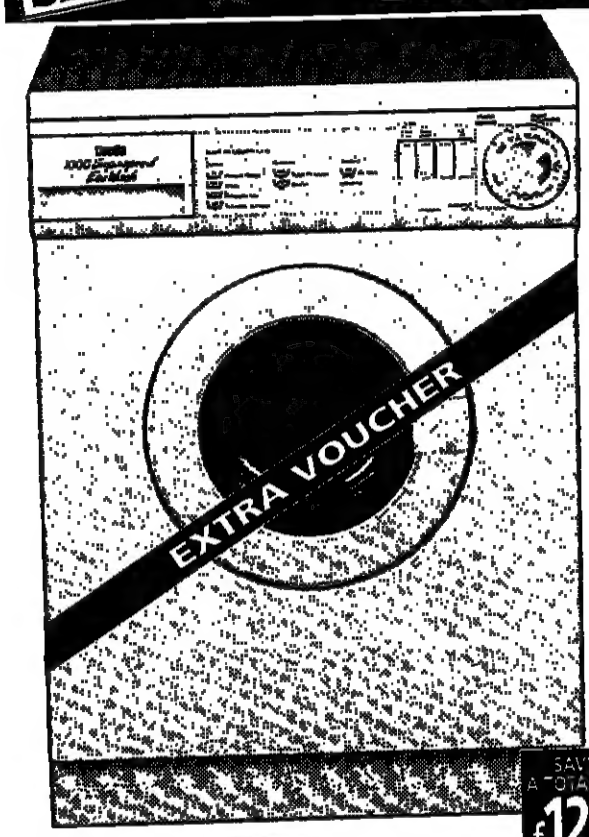
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- Very quiet operation
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- 2 fully adjustable wire racks
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EXTRA VOUCHER £80

CANDY 9.5 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer

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- 4.5 cu.ft. freezer
- 2 fully adjustable wire racks
- Freezer basket
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- 2 fully adjustable wire racks
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- 5.5 cu.ft. freezer
- 2 fully adjustable wire racks
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- 5.5 cu.ft. freezer
- 2 fully adjustable wire racks
- Freezer basket
- Model N188
- Was £289.99
- In-store Price £249.99
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VOUCHER PRICE £249.99

EXTRA VOUCHER £80

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- 5.5 cu.ft. freezer
- 2 fully adjustable wire racks
- Freezer basket
- Model N189
- Was £289.99
- In-store Price £249.99
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VOUCHER PRICE £249.99

EXTRA VOUCHER £80

BEKO 11.5 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer

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- 6.5 cu.ft. freezer
- 2 fully adjustable wire racks
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Wheeling in a tasty dish to set before a queen

By DANIEL MCGRODY

THE roast beef and vegetables looked appetising enough in the tin foil dish, but Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother graciously declined a meals-on-wheels delivery yesterday because of a prior lunch date.

The appearance of the delivery van outside her London residence had tourists and passers-by wondering at the Royal Family's financial state. They were more bewildered when the Queen Mother could be seen lifting the lid and nodding with approval at the apple pie and custard on offer for dessert. Had it not been for a date with the Canadian High Commissioner, she told her doorstep delivery men, she would have welcomed their delivery.

Organisers of the second annual Meals on Wheels Day knew that the guaranteed way to assure publicity was to deliver their most popular menu to the nation's most



Lunch is served: the most popular meal on wheels

celebrated pensioner, as they campaigned for more government funding and national guidelines on what councils should provide.

They had not checked the Clarence House diary before picking the date. A spokesman for the Queen Mother said: "She would have happily eaten the meal but she had this long-standing engagement. Even so, she was insistent that the van should be seen at Clarence House as she sup-

ports the scheme." The royal verdict was that the menu was considerably more appetising than the suet dumplings and rice pudding she ladled out when delivering meals on wheels during the Blitz.

Roger Denton, chairman of the Advisory Board for Social Services Catering, said: "It brought back memories for her. During the war she had to serve rice pudding for almost every meal for children because it contained milk and calcium. They hated it. She was pleased to see we have moved on since then."

Ministers, MPs and local dignitaries spent much of yesterday preparing and delivering meals as part of the campaign. More than half of each year's 26 million meals are still delivered by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, of which the 97-year-old Queen Mother is president. Age Concern and Help the Aged are among other charities who help. Roast beef



Royal delivery: the Queen Mother and Roger Denton, right, with meals-on-wheels providers Patricia Cooke and Ahmed Allachi

and apple pie remain the overwhelming favourites. Mr Denton said: "It is a disgrace that pensioners get the same money wherever they live, and yet in some counties they get deliveries every day and in others only two. Some pay 70p for a fine meal, others pay £2 for often

boring, cold food. Many councils offer daily choices, ethnic varieties, and the best provide two meals a day, but there is no agreed programme."

The service began in 1943 in Welwyn Garden City, where many evacuees from the London Blitz were living. The WRVS was asked to help

when a chronic flu epidemic left many of the evacuees unable to leave their homes to reach food stations. Volunteers delivered ration packs and bowls of thin stew.

By 1948, the National Assistance Act provided for government grants to local authorities who wanted to offer

meals on wheels. WRVS volunteers delivered many in prisons. In 1957, a Private Member's Bill to force all councils to provide meals was thrown out, but in 1962 the Commons agreed that local authorities should offer grants to voluntary organisations providing meals on wheels.

and where possible offer their own service. Mr Denton said: "The Care in the Community Act makes provision that services, in particular meals, should be provided to keep people in their own homes. What it doesn't stipulate is what should be provided."

Gala concert in aid of charities becomes memorial to Princess

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen last night took the place of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, at a concert in London which was planned as a gala but became a memorial.

A near-capacity audience of 3,000 filled the Festival Hall to hear a programme of Mozart which is expected to raise £75,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and the 175th anniversary appeal of the Royal Academy of Music. It is the first time since the Princess's death that the Queen has taken her place.

When the concert was planned earlier this year, the Princess accepted an invitation to be guest of honour at a function to aid two charities with which she had been connected. She lived the hospital's president and regular, frequent private visits there. She had also been president of the

HOTLINE FOR FUNDRAISERS

A hotline has been set up to cope with the number of people wanting to raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, organisers said yesterday. Michael Gibbins, a fund trustee, said: "We have been impressed by the number of people who have a genuine interest in raising money for the fund through commercial ventures." He hoped the hotline would encourage enterprise by providing clear guidelines for obtaining approved status from the fund. The hotline number is 0839 000 500.

Royal Academy of Music since 1985, but gave up the post, along with about 100 charities, upon her divorce in 1996.

After the Princess's death in August, the organisers decided that the event should become a memorial, and asked the Queen to take her place. Her acceptance was seen at the time as a gesture of reconciliation to the Princess. The Queen in fact outranked

the Princess in both charities, being patron of both the hospital and the academy.

Last night's programme, performed by the Royal Academy Sinfonia with Sir Colin Davis as conductor, was altered to reflect the changed nature of the occasion. A Mozart violin concerto and the Symphony No. 26 were dropped in favour of his requiem. One of the soloists

was Lynne Dawson, who sang part of the Verdi Requiem at the Princess's funeral.

When the Queen arrived she was met by Sir Brian Hill, chairman of the hospital, and Guy Whalley, chairman of the Royal Academy. She was presented with a posy by Sarah Mowat, 15, from Enfield, northwest London, whose experience straddles both charities. Having been treated at Great Ormond Street for seven years, she now plays viola in the academy's junior orchestra.

Hospital officials admit that the Princess's death has been a big blow. "She was a great asset as a fundraiser, and a great boost to morale with her frequent visits," a spokeswoman said. No decision had yet been made on who should replace her. Nor has the Royal Academy yet found a new president.

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Council staff pay-offs put pension funds at risk

Auditors attack number of early retirements at cost to taxpayer of £35,000, reports Valerie Elliott

PENSION funds for millions of local authority workers are being put at risk because thousands of white-collar staff — mainly senior grades — have taken advantage of generous early retirement packages.

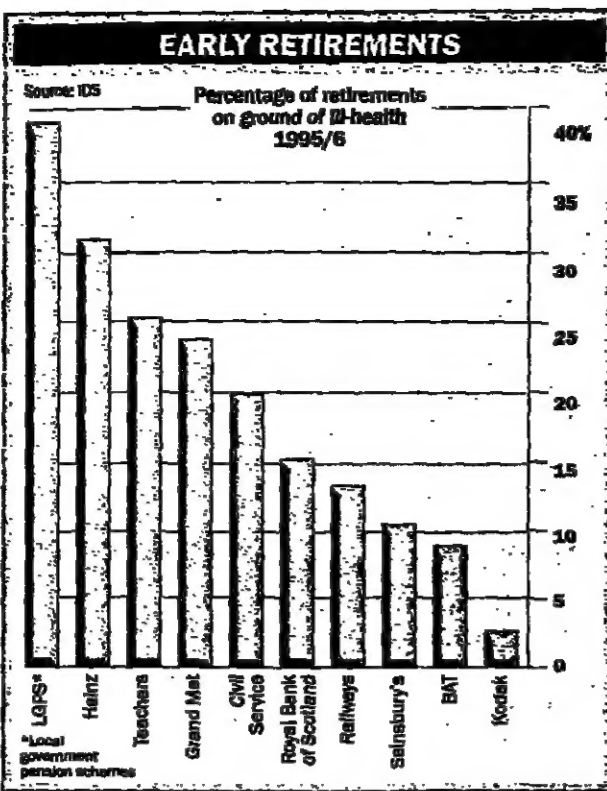
Only 21 per cent of council workers retire at the age of 65 with up to 70 per cent in some authorities retiring early on health grounds, according to an Audit Commission report published today.

Last year the average age was 54 with 32,000 out of 42,000 retirements taken early at an average cost to the taxpayer of £35,000. The cost of a senior official retiring early can be as much as £300,000. Early retirements over the past six years have left councils facing a pension bill of £5.7 billion.

When employees in private companies take early retirement their pension entitlements are reduced. But in local government, an official who retires early suffers no reduction in his pension. Indeed, councils make top-up payments. In most cases the pension is boosted by pay-



The report uncovers levels of early retirement in local government well above private industry



ments to cover the years an official would have worked if he had stayed on until normal retirement age.

The Audit Commission says that the viability of the local government pension scheme is under threat unless drastic action is taken. It recommends tighter checks on early retirement taken on health grounds, including an independent medical assessment. Councils should make spot checks on the health of staff who have

taken early retirement to see if they are well enough to return to work.

Councillors should ensure they are involved in decisions on early retirement and know the full costs of pension packages. Senior officials should be made more accountable for decisions they take on granting early retirements.

The commission clearly believes the discretion of officials to offer early retirement packages is being abused. The

report states: "In recent years some councils have used the scheme to meet objectives other than those for which it is originally devised. The use of early retirement has drifted from being exceptional to becoming expected."

The report highlights a system of "bumped" redundancy schemes in which highly paid senior officers are moved to lower-grade posts before early retirement. That lower post is made redundant

but a new senior officer is recruited for the higher grade.

Figures show that the highest paid 20 per cent of people leaving early are responsible for incurring over 40 per cent of the cost of early retirement.

Without proper scrutiny, the commission says that councils are vulnerable to allegations of doing deals "behind closed doors".

The commission report also shows that the number of

Former officers rehired as well-paid consultants

By MARK HENDERSON

COUNCIL officers who take early retirement are routinely re-employed in consultancy roles or in new posts by the local authorities they have just left.

In Edinburgh, Andrew Gold, formerly head of service at the City Council's property services department, took early retirement from his £51,000 post in March with an enhanced pension. He was immediately rehired by the council as a consultant on the planned £24 million refurbishment of Usher Hall, one of the city's main music venues, at a rate of £200 a day. One of his main tasks in his council job had been overseeing the Usher Hall project. John

Connaghan, another Edinburgh council officer, took early retirement from his job at Lothian Regional Council when it merged with Edinburgh District Council earlier this year. He was then appointed to a job in the property services department of the new unitary authority, City of Edinburgh Council.

Daphne Slade, a Conservative councillor, said: "There is no way this can be the best way to spend council taxpayers' money."

In Islington, North London, Conservative opposition councillors said that early retirement had frequently been used as a means of easing out contro-

versial or "second-rate" figures with minimum fuss.

Philip Nash, director of finance at Torridge council in Gwent, and treasurer of the Greater Gwent Pension Fund which represents five councils, said he knew of several former officers who had been re-employed by local authorities in consultancy roles. "It can make a bit of a mockery of the system sometimes," he said.

Mr Nash said: "The councils I represent will each budget between £500,000 and £1 million for pension costs incurred through early retirement in 1998-9. That is money that should be being spent on schools and social services."

They have heard "anecdotal" stories that some officials have taken early retirement on health grounds and then gone on to set up consultancy businesses or other work, but they do not have proof. The commission, however, is to send auditors to check the accounts of 400 local authorities in the coming year and hopes to identify any such cases.

The commission believes that local authorities should

set a target of just 25 per cent for retirements on poor health grounds. The report, *Retiring Nature*, says: "To continue the present level of early retirement may well put impossible pressures on pensions funds."

Sir Jeremy Beecham, chairman of the Local Government Association, said that local authorities were already tightening rules for pension schemes and making savings.

Leading article, page 21

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Weary judge says he will stay silent on Woodward

By TUNKU VAJARAJAN

THE judge who set Louise Woodward free has asked the public to leave him alone, saying that he would not talk about the case "even on his deathbed".

Speaking to *The Times* yesterday, Judge Hillier Bellin Zobel betrayed the obvious fatigue of a man whose life has been held hostage by the Woodward case for nearly a month.

Dressed in his shirt sleeves, with his trademark bow tie slacked, Judge Zobel, 65, was a shadow of his usual jaunty self as he sat hunched in his office armchair. After greeting me, he said: "I'll talk to you about Oliver Wendell Holmes. I'll talk to you about history. I'll talk to you about the Boston Massacre, but I can't talk to you about the Woodward case. It is now out of my hands. The case no longer has anything to do with me. It's now a part of the appellate procedure."

"This has been a long case," he said, his voice bristling with exhaustion. "But it has left Judge Zobel's court for good. My mother said 'never say never', but even on my deathbed I would never talk about the case."

He sounded relieved. The attention he has received this week has been relentless. He has had to change his telephone number. Where once he rode home on the subway every evening, he now drives home with a bodyguard. He has been threatened, an official in his office revealed.

A woman who works with him at the Middlesex County Superior Court told me that Judge Zobel is "totally debili-



Zobel now has to drive home with bodyguard

tated and drained by the trial". She said: "He has lost that panache. He's lost the mischief and the showmanship. He is now looking old and acting old. He needs a holiday. He needs to spend a few weeks just tending to his garden."

A court clerk revealed, however: "His calendar is full for Christmas. He's not going anywhere."

Thomas Reilly, the District Attorney of Middlesex County, is expected to apply today for a "stay order" against Judge Zobel's decision to free Miss Woodward. If successful, his application could send Miss Woodward back to prison while her appeal is considered. In private, however, state prosecutors concede that the application has little chance of success.

In a signed letter published yesterday, 47 doctors, all specialists in the treatment of child abuse, dismissed the medical witnesses who testified for the defence as "unreliable".

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BY MARK HENDERSON

FRANK HENDERSON

Edinburgh, another Edinburgh council officer, an early retirement from his job at Lothian Regional Council when he merged with Edinburgh District Council earlier this year. He was then appointed to a job in the property services department of the new unitary authority, City of Edinburgh Council.

James Macle, a Conservative councillor, said: "It is no way this can be done without you spend considerable money."

Mr. Ballington, North Edinburgh Conservative opposition councillor said that early retirement had frequently been used as a means of easing out contro-

Philip Nash, director of the Greater Gwent Pension Fund which represents the council, said he knew several former officers had been re-employed by local authorities in similar roles. "It can make it a bit of a mockery of the system," he said.

Mr Nash said that the council's representatives on the budget between 1986 and £1 million for pensions, incurred through retirement in 1998-9. The money that should be spent on schools and services.

set a target of just 5p for retirements on par grounds. The report, *Nature*, says: 'To meet present level of expenditure may well put up pressures on pension.'

Sir Jeremy Beedman of the Local Government Association, said the authorities were abrogating rules for schemes and making

have heard "anecdotal" reports that some officials have been early resisters on city grounds and then gone to set up consultancy offices or other work, but do not have proof. The mission, however, is to ask officials to check the names of 400 local authorities in the coming year and to identify any such resisters. The commission believes that local authorities could

Reading under

Weary judge says he will stay silent on Woodward

74-951 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

judge who met Louise
early this year, asked the
to answer four points.
that he would not talk
the case over on in-
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Judge jailed for third drink-driving offence

A FORMER county court judge was jailed for 28 days yesterday after admitting his third drink-driving offence in 12 years.

Angus MacArthur, who resigned from the bench earlier this week, was described in court as "a broken man" who admitted to being an alcoholic. When he was arrested at 9.30am on October 15 after a collision with a woman motorist, police breathalysed him and found he was more than twice the legal limit.

MacArthur, 55, is believed to be only the second judge to be imprisoned in Britain in the modern era. Drink-drive campaigners yesterday criticised as too lenient his jail term and a £2,000 fine and ten-year driving ban.

Maria Cape, secretary of the Campaign Against Drink-Driving, said the sentence was nothing. "Judges should be whiter than white. It's a scandal and a disgrace that he has been allowed to continue for so many years."

The court at Peterborough was told how MacArthur regarded his judicial position as

'Broken man' starts his sentence as campaigners claim 28-day term is

too lenient, reports Daniel McGrory

a "lonely existence" and how, since his divorce in 1991, he had lived alone in a rented flat in Stamford, Lincolnshire.

After his previous conviction in 1993, he was warned by the Lord Chancellor that it was his final chance.

MacArthur, who normally presided over civil disputes at Peterborough County Court, had been on medical leave since October 14, the eve of his arrest.

A statement from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said MacArthur was suffering from alcohol dependence and depression.

Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate, told MacArthur: "There is no more painful task than for one member of the judiciary to pass sentence on another."

"But I have to bear in mind that the law must be even-

handed. Those of us who sit in judgment on others do have a substantial responsibility to scrupulously obey the law ourselves."

He said that he had taken into account MacArthur's personal circumstances, his poor health and excellent references about his abilities as a judge. Mr Bartle added: "But this is your third conviction for an offence which all too often results in injury or even death to other road users."

Sylvia Cundell, for the prosecution, said MacArthur had drunk a substantial amount of whisky the previous evening. On his way to Peterborough a car in front stopped suddenly and MacArthur's foot slipped on a pedal, sending his vehicle into another.

As he stopped to comfort the woman driver, police smelt alcohol on his breath and

tested him. He had 81 milligrams in 100 millilitres. The legal limit is 35mg.

The court was told of his two previous convictions. In 1984 he was fined £300 for being drunk in charge of his car. Four years ago he was fined £3,000 and banned from driving for two years after he admitted being more than two and a half times over the legal limit.

The hearing was interrupted by a man who alleged that MacArthur had been drunk when he sentenced him to a jail sentence. The man, Gordon Foster, 67, also shouted insults at MacArthur.

MacArthur began his sentence last night in Bedford jail where he is understood to have been put in the segregation unit for his own protection. It is expected he will move to an open jail.

The only other judge imprisoned in recent times was John Reeder, QC, a crown court recorder in his late 40s, of Maldon, Essex. He served 30 days in jail this spring for driving while five times over the alcohol limit.



Angus MacArthur, a lonely alcoholic who was suffering from depression

IN BRIEF

Winter sadness led to suicide

A woman killed herself because she could not bear the thought of another British winter, an inquest in Berkshire was told. Janet Thomas, 44, was found hanging from the banisters of her home in Newbury on November 5 by her husband David who had gone to collect a prescription for his wife's seasonal affective disorder, triggered by lack of sunlight. Verdict: suicide.

Nuclear leak

Contractors staged a one-day strike after a radioactive leak at the Sellafield nuclear power plant in Cumbria. British Nuclear Fuels said the discharge of ruthenium did not breach legal limits. It has launched an inquiry.

Bones of past

A near-perfect skeleton of a rat-sized mammal, the Zhangheotherium, which died more than 140 million years ago, was found in Liaoning province, north-east China, the science journal *Nature* reported.

Player hit

Leicester City player Mark Robins, 27, was punched in the face by Paul Sisson, 34, of Duffield, Derbyshire, after moving in with his former wife. Magistrates fined Sisson £500 and ordered him to pay Robins £100 compensation.

Tunnel delays

Le Shuttle services through the Channel Tunnel were disrupted when one of the two tunnels was closed due to signalling problems. Passengers were delayed for up to three hours as trains were forced to use one track.

Big claret sold

A magnum of Château-Margaux 1900, has been sold for £11,000 at Sotheby's in London. Serena Sutcliffe, head of the firm's wine department, said it was "one of the most scented, the most magical of all the great 1900s".

Victory seat

An oak chair which was one of five carved from wood from Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory, was found at a house in Scotland during a routine valuation by a furniture specialist from Phillips. It is expected to fetch £50,000.

Man finds a deadly welcome at home

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A BUSINESSMAN'S house move ended quickly when he discovered three deadly visitors were there ahead of him. Ben Hayes opened the lid of a banana box left in his new home, and found himself looking at three venomous Huntsman spiders from central America.

Even worse, the largest of the creatures sensed danger and fled into a hole in the kitchen wall. Yesterday Mr Hayes, 34, was staying elsewhere, and South Wales police were guarding the £55,000 home in Barry, waiting for an all-clear from environmental health officers who fumigated the property.

It is believed the last owner may have unwittingly brought the spiders home after a trip to Puerto Rico. Mr Hayes, 34, a builders' merchant, said: "I'm scared stiff of spiders. The two red spots on their backs seemed to say danger."

An expert in exotic animals identified the visitors, whose bite could be fatal to children, elderly people and the infirm. One of the smaller spiders has since died, and the other is now with a collector.

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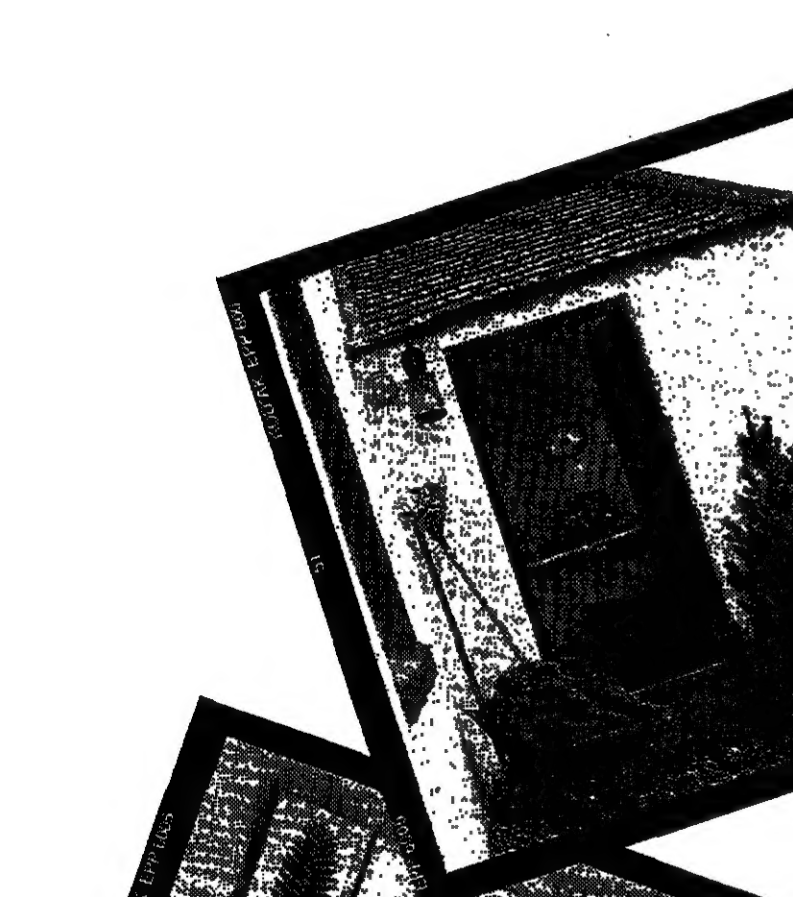
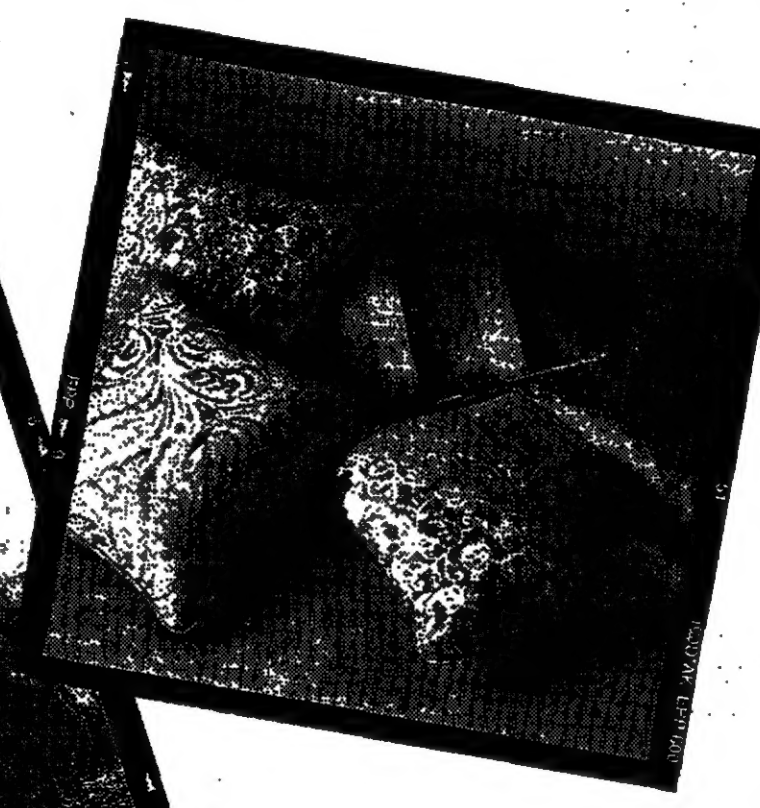
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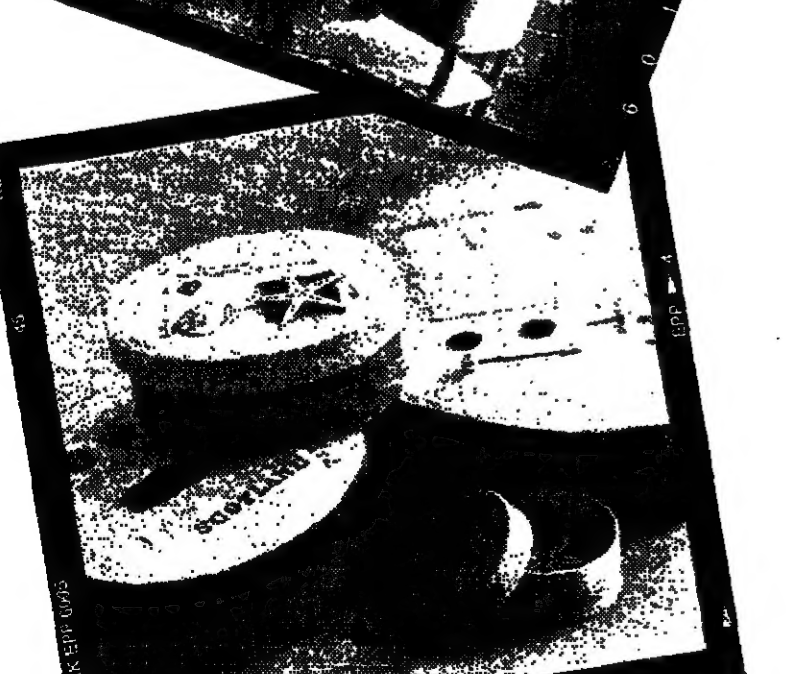
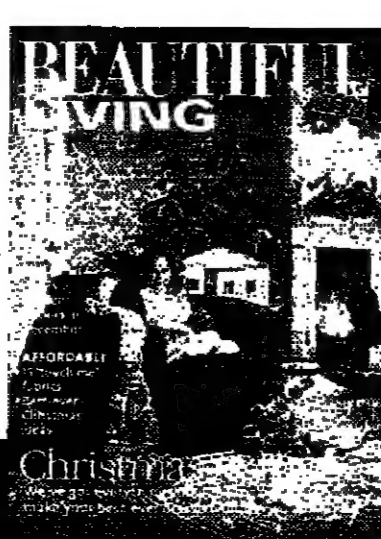
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Blair's link with Lib Dems will determine electoral reform

ELECTORAL reform for the Commons is the biggest uncertainty in Labour's constitutional plans. All autumn there has been sparring between Labour and the Liberal Democrats over the terms of reference of the promised commission on the issue. While nothing has been finally settled, the deadlock at last seems to have been broken. So the commission is very likely to be set up by the end of the month: probably, as expected, under the chairmanship of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead.

Behind the arcane arguments over electoral systems lie questions of party and personal advantage. A joint Labour and Lib Dem committee agreed before the election that a commission should report within a year of being set up on a proportional alternative to the first-past-the-post system. This choice would be put to voters in a referendum before the next election. Tony Blair is wary of a full-scale proportional system because it would threaten the current constituency link and would strengthen the position of third parties in what would probably be permanent coalitions.

Peter Mandelson and Peter Hain, the eager-beaver minister from the valleys, have been arguing the merits of the alternative vote (AV). This would preserve single-member constituencies but allow people to list candidates in order of preference. These preferences would be redistributed until someone gets a majority of the votes cast. The Lib Dems and Labour electoral reformers like Robin Cook have pointed out that AV is not a proportional system. Paddy Ashdown is flexible on the balance of the final proposal, but firm that it must be based on the principle of proportionality. Hence, there could be a mixture of systems, as is suggested for the Scottish parliament. The terms of reference of the commission are likely to refer to producing a proposal that is "broadly proportional". This deliberate ambiguity could be favourably interpreted by both the supporters of AV and those wanting a more purely proportional system. AV would be on the agenda, as would the single transferable vote and the additional member system. It should be possible for the commission to produce a mixed solution.

**RIDDELL
ON POLITICS**

The debate has been stirred by estimates of what would happen under AV. A few weeks ago, Democratic Audit published a report by Patrick Dunleavy, Helen Margolis and Stuart Weir based on ICM surveys of how people might have voted under alternative systems. This shows that the outcome would have been even less proportional under AV. Labour would have gained 436 seats, against the 419 it actually won on May 1. The Tories would have won just 110 seats, compared with 165, while the Lib Dem total would have risen from 46 to 84. Labour would have won between 300 and 340 seats under more proportional systems.

The key is Mr Blair's attitude. At present, he is unsure about how close he wants to get to the Lib Dems. He likes Mr Ashdown and his close allies, but often regards local Lib Dems as too like old Labour for comfort. Does he want them as independent, but friendly, partners in multiparty politics or does he want to subsume them in an all-embracing new Labour hegemony? That strategic choice about relations with the Lib Dems will determine the choice of electoral systems.

PETER RIDDELL

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PETER RIDDELL

Peers join forces to defend £35m Oxbridge subsidy

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Government faced sustained criticism from leading peers yesterday over its plans to review the special £35 million public subsidy granted to Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Peers from all sides of British academia said that any cuts would lead to the closure of colleges and would severely damage the universities as leading centres of educational excellence.

Each college receives an extra £2,000 per undergraduate to support the system under which Oxford and Cambridge are divided into semi-autonomous communities. This allows students and lecturers to live and work together, making it easier for undergraduates to receive individual attention.

Lord Beloff, a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, who called the debate in the House of Lords, said the collegiate system was an "extraordinarily efficient" way of teaching that was less expensive than other leading universities around the world. "We seem to be able to do on less what Harvard, Yale or Princeton do so admirably for more," he said.

Lord Plant of Highfield, a Labour peer who is master of St Catherine's College, Ox-

ford, said that Oxford's research excellence would be harmed by any funding cuts and its consequent threat to the collegiate system. He added that any cuts would make Oxford more exclusive. "This policy would be little short of destructive in terms of access. Any alternative to the existing system is going to make Oxford more socially exclusive."

In his maiden speech, Lord Baker of Dorking, a former Tory Education Secretary, said the funding cuts were being demanded by the Treasury, but if the money saved, worth only 0.35 per cent of the entire £10 billion education budget, were spread among Britain's 181 main educational establishments, they would each receive just £193,000. "It would be better to leave well alone. You do not improve the worst by hitting the best."

Lord Dacre, the former warden of St Anthony's College, Oxford, admitted that Oxford and Cambridge's excellence was expensive. But he added: "I do not find it difficult to make the case for public support of excellence. A civilised country should be proud to have such institutions and to do everything to keep them going."

The Chancellor of Oxford University and leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, said the collegiate system cost the Treasury only £19 million, which was a wholly justified national investment. "For God's sake, don't let the advent of this new Government be marred by inflicting grave damage on the two institutions which have given Britain a great part of its educational fame and respect around the world."

Baroness Blackstone, the Education Minister, insisted that the Government was committed to safeguarding the futures of Oxford and Cambridge. But she said peers should not forget they were not the only centres of academic excellence.

She said that the matter was being considered by the Higher Education Funding Council, and she would not make presumptions about its advice, which was due in the next few weeks. But she said that the Government should have "a proper concern about value for money" and that there was a proper balance to be struck. "Other universities achieve excellent ratings in teaching and research assessments. Some have small tutorial groups too without college fees."



Clare Short, International Development Secretary, celebrating the Commons' decision to use only Fairtrade coffee, which ensures a fair deal for Third World farmers

Rail chiefs set out plan to cut car dependence

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

RAILWAY chiefs have told the Government they can help it to curb car use by doubling the number of passenger journeys made each year. They predict that they will attract ten million people who at present never travel by train.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has received a confidential document from Railtrack detailing a multi-billion-pound package of improvements intended to revolutionise train travel over the next 15 years. The company says that the scheme will help to cut congestion and pollution, aims that are central to the Government's plans to improve Britain's transport system.

The Railtrack scheme includes building new stations at airports, re-opening disused lines and creating an orbital London railway that will enable through trains to bypass the busiest stations.

However, the 22-page document, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Times*, warns ministers that plans to alter people's travel habits will not work unless the Government takes bold action to deter unnecessary motoring. Railtrack lists a range of actions that could be taken to deter motorists, including higher fuel taxes in place of the present road fund licence, road tolls to discourage motorists from driving into city centres and new taxes on

public sector and company car-park spaces.

Railtrack says that its proposals to double the number of passenger journeys, from 30 billion to 60 billion a year, can be achieved in 15 years but could be done sooner if ministers allow the rail industry freedom to invest and do not impose tougher regulation. The company, which owns and maintains track and signalling throughout the country, makes clear that it and other rail companies can invest large amounts of money only if they feel that their investments are secure and that potential profits are not diminished by over-zealous regulation. The proposals include the building of stations at Luton, East Midlands and Heathrow airports and the developing of parkway stations at Hatfield Wood, near the M25 in Hertfordshire, Doncaster, Peterborough and north Watford.

At present, only one in three people catches a train in any one year but Railtrack believes that it can increase that figure of 18 million to 28 million by improvements to enable faster and more reliable services. Most delays and cancellations have in the past been blamed on substandard tracks and signalling problems and operators see Railtrack as the crucial link in bringing about a rail service fit for the next century.

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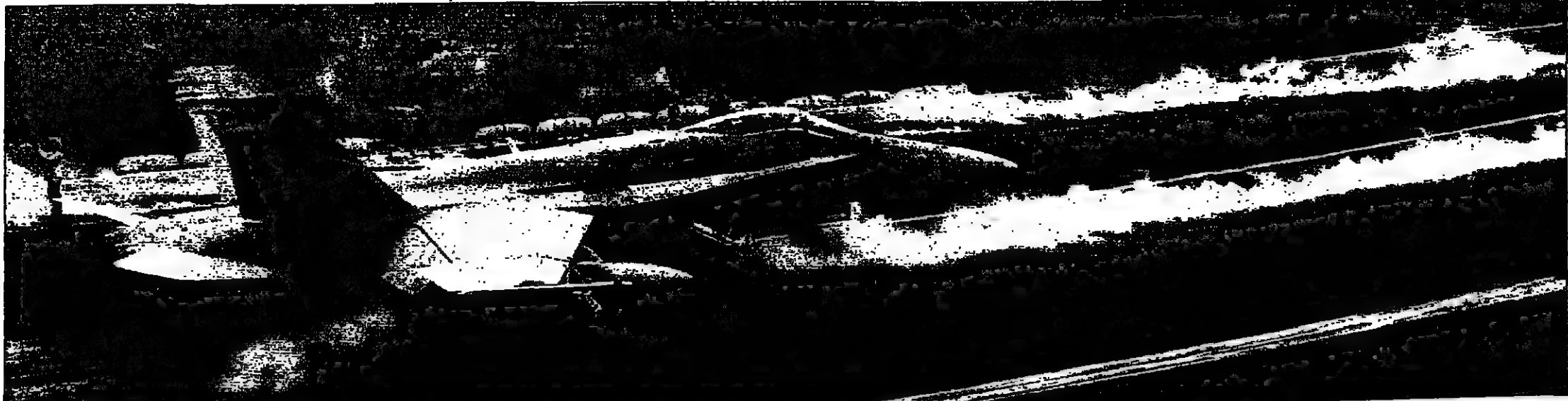
UN travel ban adds to pressure on Iraq

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK AND
MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

THE United Nations Security Council agreed yesterday to a symbolic tightening of sanctions on Iraq by imposing a travel ban on Iraqi officials who seldom leave the country. The resolution, approved unanimously by all 15 members of the council, condemned Baghdad's decision to bar Americans from acting as UN weapons inspectors and gave a warning of "further measures" if its policy was not reversed, but stopped short of making any clear threat of military action.

Iraq responded by declaring that it would expel US arms inspectors in retaliation. President Saddam Hussein was due to chair a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council this morning to decide when the six Americans still in Iraq would be expelled, a move bound to intensify the confrontation.

The unanimous vote was hailed by British and American diplomats as a signal of renewed unity in the Security Council after months of division over its handling of Iraq. "The old coalition is back,"



An American F/A18 fighter preparing for take-off from the deck of the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier to patrol a no-fly zone over Iraq. The ship is said to be on a high state of readiness for action.

said Bill Richardson, the US Ambassador at the UN. "There is unanimity in a very strong sense that the international community is not going to tolerate continued actions by the Iraqis."

The resolution did mark a limited diplomatic victory for the two Gulf War allies because it tightened sanctions, albeit modestly, when other Security Council members

had begun to seek a relaxation of the embargo placed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But Britain and the US, facing strong opposition to military action within the council, failed to incorporate a threat of "serious consequences" — even though a council statement had used those words two weeks ago. The two countries sought a

travel ban on particular individuals because of growing concern in the Security Council about the effect of UN sanctions on the Iraqi people. The ban will affect Iraqi officials and military officers responsible for blocking UN inspectors. Iraqi envoys on "bona fide assignments" will be exempt, but the travel sanctions might be interpreted to cover parliamentarians

who voted to obstruct UN inspections.

In the renewal of rhetoric by Baghdad, Muhammad al-Sahaf, the Foreign Minister, extended a threat to shoot down US spy planes enforcing no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq, claiming that the number of overflights had recently increased. "Whenever we see fit to

shoot them, we will shoot them," he said.

Iraqi opposition groups welcomed the travel ban, but said that, apart from increasing the regime's sense of isolation, its impact would be largely symbolic. "These guys don't travel much and if they need to, they can easily get false passports," said a spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress. Diplomats saw three main

factors encouraging Saddam to maintain his challenge to the UN. He believes he has little to lose because the US has made clear that even if he complies with the disarmament programme, it will do its utmost to maintain sanctions while he is in power, they said. Second, American military action could jeopardise the very thing that the US is trying to preserve: the continued moni-

toring of Saddam's weapons programmes. "The UN would want to withdraw all its inspectors before air or missile strikes," an Arab diplomat said. Saddam would also be emboldened by Washington's obvious difficulty in mustering support among its allies for tough action.

Leading article, page 21

Pentagon rules out military strikes on Saddam's palaces

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Pentagon has a long list of potential Iraqi targets for military strikes should it be decided to use force against President Saddam Hussein over the obstruction of American United Nations weapons inspectors.

However, taken attacks on air-defence radar installations or command and control facilities are unlikely to cause the Iraqi leader to sleep in whichever of his many presidential palaces he is residing. Military action will be seen as a last resort that will need to demonstrate to Saddam the international community's ability to "America-In-the-middle" — in other words, it really hurts.

Over "six-and-a-half" years, the UN arms inspectors have been blocked from entering up to 100 sites, according to one UN official. They include key buildings where "special" Republican Guards units are suspected of concealing incriminating documents, weapons parts and biological warfare agents.

However, these buildings are usually contained inside the perimeter of a presidential palace, which the Iraqis will not let inspectors enter for national security reasons. Presidential palaces are unlikely to be on the Pentagon

target list because American intelligence services cannot be sure which might be concealing crucial elements of Saddam's secret programme to develop weapons of mass destruction. There would also be a risk of civilian casualties.

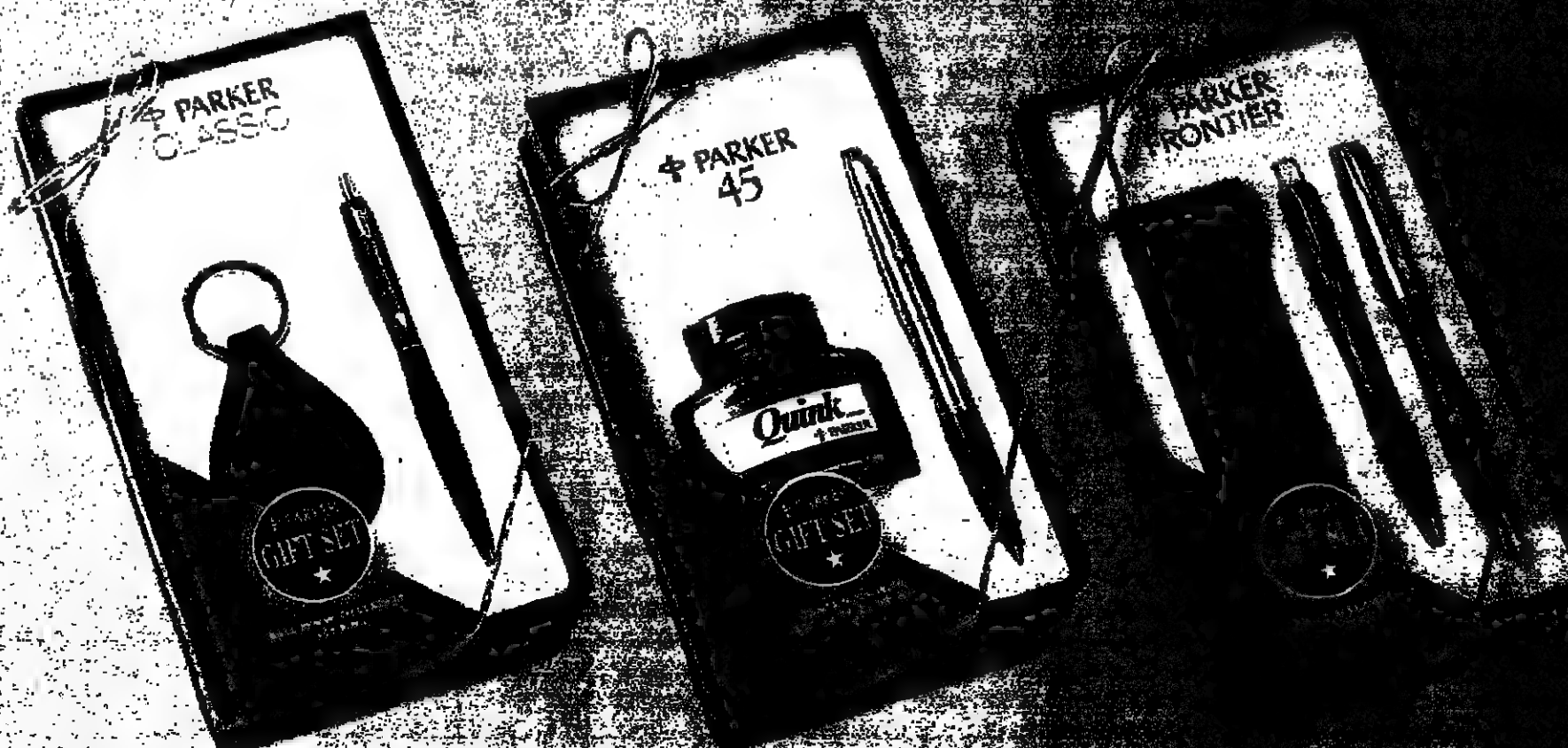
Photographs by American satellites and US spy planes have revealed that Saddam has rebuilt many of his military assembly lines damaged during the Gulf War. They include one missile plant which could be targeted by Tomahawk cruise missiles or laser-guided bombs.

However, UN officials pointed out that Iraq was allowed to continue building missiles with a range of no more than about 90 miles. There is no sign of a Scud intermediate-range missile facility being rebuilt.

The main concern now is focused on chemical and biological research. In June last year, the UN inspectors destroyed a biological weapons plant producing anthrax and botulinum at Halkam.

If a similar factory could be identified by satellite or U2, and UN inspectors are prevented from entering, this might be a more appropriate target for a military strike than a radar facility that can be rebuilt in a few weeks.

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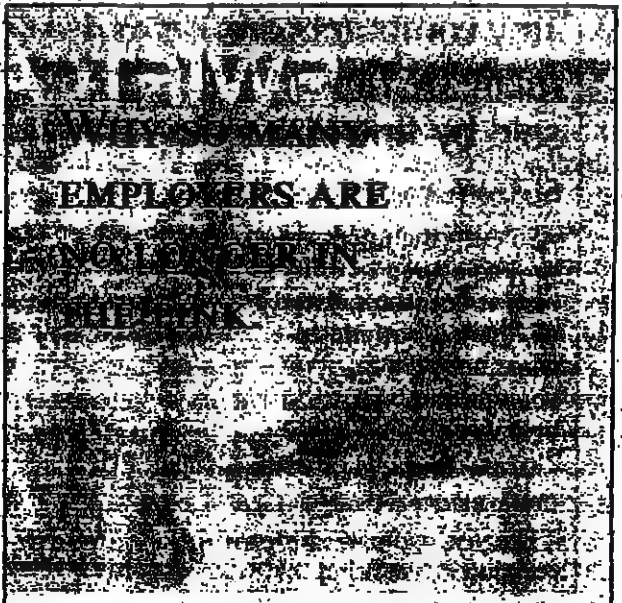
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Americans shot dead after guilty verdict on Pakistani

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT, AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

FOUR Americans and a Pakistani were shot dead yesterday, probably by Islamic extremists, in a reprisal attack in the centre of Karachi — a violent port city with a sinister political and religious undercurrent. The Pakistani Government has ordered an inquiry, but there is little chance of catching the killers.

The Americans — foreigners are always at risk of unprovoked attacks in Pakistan's most lawless city — were singled out as the car in which they were travelling passed over a bridge in heavy morning traffic. The gunman used Kalashnikovs, which are freely available at knockdown prices throughout the country, and escaped in the confusion.

The murders were probably designed to avenge the guilty verdict passed by an American court on Mir Aimal Kasi, a Pakistani national accused of

killing two CIA employees outside the agency's headquarters in Langley, near Washington, more than four years ago. He could face the death penalty for the murders, caused when he sprayed bullets from an assault rifle into rush-hour traffic waiting to turn into the agency's headquarters. The action made him a hero among many Islamic zealots in Pakistan.

The Karachi shootings came as legal-aid lawyers in America were pleading with a jury to spare Kasi's life and sentence him instead to life in prison without parole. The defence produced family members, teachers, friends and former employers to show that Kasi had lived a quiet, non-violent life before the killings, but had been subject to seizures in childhood and suffered brain damage that altered his personality.

When he was captured in Pakistan in June, Kasi told the FBI that he shot the CIA employees to protest at American policies towards Muslims in the Middle East, including the bombing of Iraq during the Gulf War.

For Kasi to receive the death penalty under Virginia law, the prosecution must convince the six men and six women on the jury that he still poses a danger to society or that his crime was particularly "vile," meaning he used more force

than necessary to kill and that his motive involved mental depravity beyond even first-degree murder.

The prosecution said the "vile" standard did apply. They recounted how Kasi shot Frank Darling, a CIA analyst, first in the back and then returned to shoot him in the head at close range. His wife, Judy, watched helplessly in the passenger seat beside him.

All five victims of yesterday's Karachi attack were employees of Union Texas, the

US oil company. They were on their way to work, a journey of only a few minutes, and died instantly. The Americans were auditors who had only just arrived in Pakistan.

The attack was similar to the killing of two American government employees in Karachi in 1995, also targeted as they drove to work. No one has been arrested for these killings, probably a reprisal for the deportation to America of Ramzi Yousef, accused of masterminding the bombing

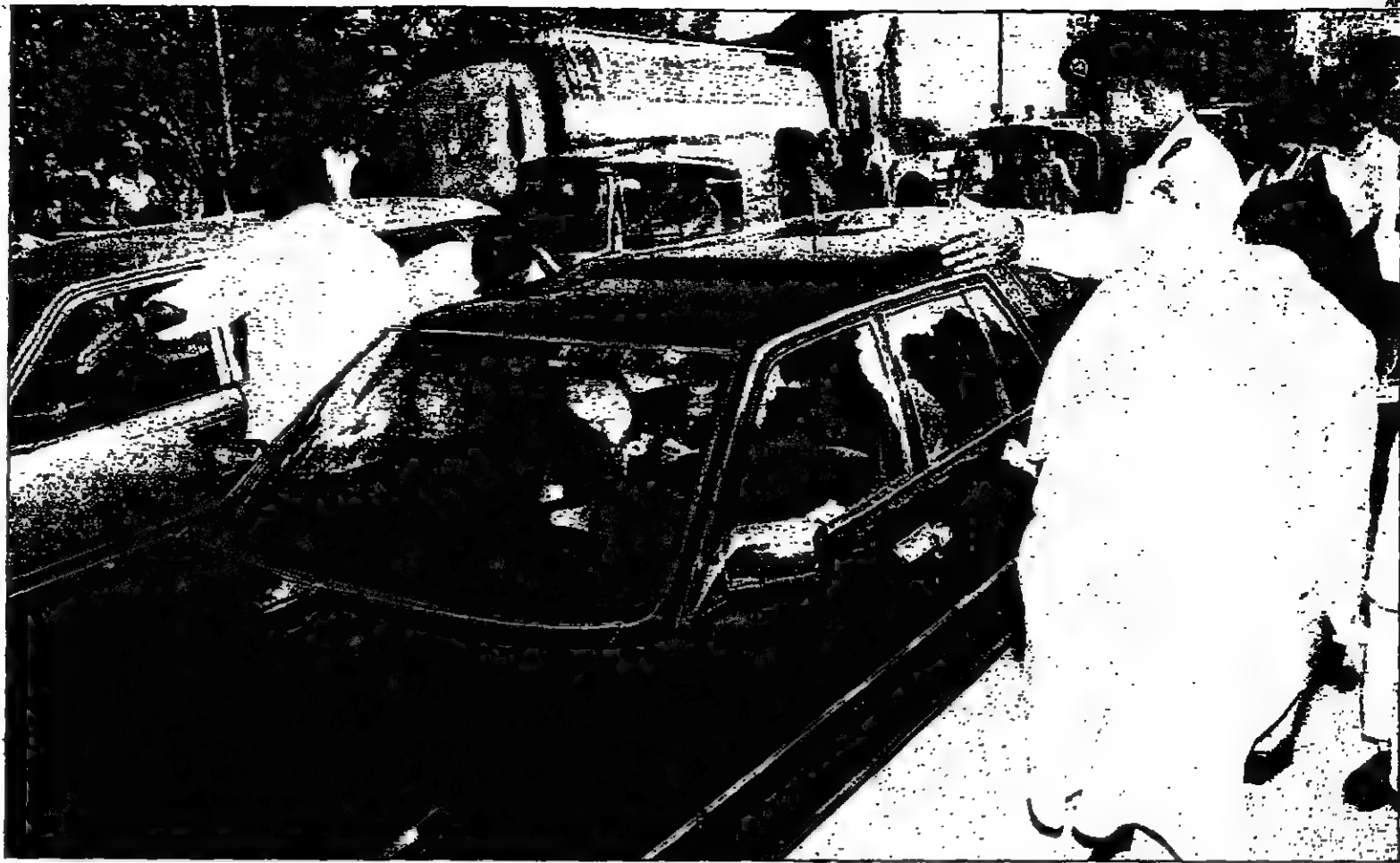
of the New York World Trade Centre.

A witness said that the killers had on khaki jackets and the traditional baggy shirts and trousers worn by most Pakistanis. They stepped out of their vehicle, sprayed bullets into the victims at point-blank range, checked the bodies closely to ensure they were dead, and then drove off. The stolen vehicle was abandoned in the city.

The US State Department gave a warning on Tuesday that Americans could be targets after the verdict. Mike McCurry, President Clinton's spokesman, said there was no immediate direct evidence to link the latest murders with the Kasi conviction, but officials were watching for any connection that developed.

Condemning the attack as barbarous and outrageous, Mr McCurry said it would not affect Mr Clinton's visit to Pakistan next year, or that of Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, due soon.

On Tuesday, the President and Vice-President Al Gore were interviewed by officials investigating election campaign fundraising. The White House said yesterday.



The car, with the bodies of its Pakistani driver and four American passengers, after the shooting on a crowded Karachi street yesterday

Cheque 'proves Clinton lied on oath'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A MYSTERIOUS cheque proves that President Clinton is a liar, according to a convicted Whitewater criminal yesterday.

A lawyer for the President ridiculed the allegation by Jim McDougal, a former partner of Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary, in their failed Whitewater land speculation.

McDougal, who is serving three years in jail on 18 charges, accused Mr Clinton in a telephone call to the Associated Press, an American news agency. His denunciation was provoked by the discovery last week of thousands of long-missing documents in the box of a car that had been abandoned ten years ago in a Little Rock garage.

The documents related to McDougal's bankrupt Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association. One of them appeared to be a cheque made out to Mr Clinton in 1982 for \$27,600. McDougal claimed this was a loan to Mr Clinton, but Mr Clinton has testified under oath that he never obtained such a loan.

On Tuesday, the President and Vice-President Al Gore were interviewed by officials investigating election campaign fundraising. The White House said yesterday.

Blacks force Christie's to drop slavery posters from US sale

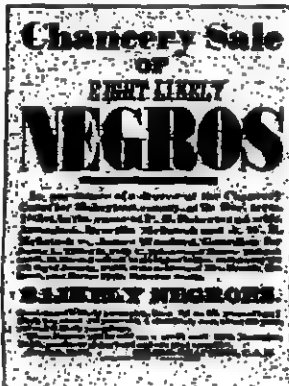
FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMBUSHED by irate listeners to a popular black radio talk-show, Christie's, New York, has had to withdraw from auction three lots of American Civil War posters advertising "likely negroes" for sale and offering rewards for runaway slaves.

The items, expected to fetch \$700 to \$1,000 (£400 to £500) a lot at last night's sale, included a "wanted" poster announcing a reward for "A Negro Man John" with a "remarkable fine set of teeth" and a receipt for the purchase of "a mulatto boy named Joe".

Another poster advertised a "Chancery Sale of 8 Likely Negroes, consisting of 3 likely girls, from 12 to 14 years of age; 1 likely boy about 16 years old; 1 stout likely man, about 25 years old; and 3 likely young boys".

Dozens of outraged listeners telephoned Christie's to complain after a commentary



One of the slave posters removed from auction

about the sale was broadcast on the Dallas-based *Tom Joyner Show*.

The talk-show is syndicated nationally and has a total audience of about three million, but it is not heard in New York and Christie's staff did not know what had hit them. The unidentified seller immediately withdrew the three lots from the auction and

promised to give them to a museum devoted to "African-American history".

David Paterson, a local state senator who helped to launch the campaign after receiving complaints from black artists in New York, criticised Christie's for "arrogance" and said that he wanted a comprehensive ban on the sale of slavery memorabilia. Tavis Smiley, the black television presenter who gave the commentary on the *Tom Joyner Show*, contrasted Christie's willingness to sell such items with its reluctance to auction paraphernalia relating to the Holocaust.

Christie's denied there was any double standard. "What we do not sell is property that glorifies any era," Vredy Lytman, for the firm, said. "We would not sell anything that glorifies Nazism or that glorifies slavery. These three lots were part of a collection of documents on the American Civil War. That war was fought to abolish slavery."

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MEMBERS of the European Parliament are enriching themselves with padded expenses, according to an investigation by German television which sent a camera team on the trail of politicians.

Stiern Television's disclosures will not astonish observers of the Strasbourg assembly, who have long believed the 626 MEPs maximise their income from the £35 million annual budget for travel and subsistence. But the report comes at an embarrassing moment, barely a fortnight after tougher monitoring was supposed to have come in force. The main target of the accusations are MEPs from Mediterranean states but those from all countries are implicated in some form of 'fraud'.

The camera team followed Nélcio Mendonça, a Portuguese deputy, walking in Brussels during the same weekend that he claimed to be at home in Madeira. He had claimed £1,600 for the air fare. Stern presented the information to José Maria Gil Robles, president of the European Parliament, who has taken no disciplinary action.

Senhor Mendonça said he had not flown home as he was taken ill "at the last moment" and had repaid the expenses.

home to Portugal and elsewhere and do not return on Monday. They simply claim expenses for phantom trips."

Until November 1, European deputies were able to claim travel expenses for committee meetings in Strasbourg or Brussels without presenting documentary proof. Senhor Mendonca could have genuinely travelled home on a cheap fare of £500 and still made a handsome profit. "The system simply invites fraud," Frau Roth says.

Under the new rules, deputies will have to present boarding passes or a copy of train tickets. If they say they travelled by car, however, they merely have to make a personal statement to that effect.

Frau Roth says she knows of a Greek colleague who flies on a cheap fare from Brussels to Athens for £137 and claims car

mileage of more than £1,620 (based on a rate of 50p a kilometre for the first 400km, and 25p for every subsequent km). The Lisbon-Brussels route is even more profitable.

The travel scam has bred its own strange culture. North Italian deputies have bought houses in Sicily on the basis of car mileage refunds from Strasbourg. Nor are German deputies exempt. All German deputies travel free on German as well as Belgian railways. If they travel to their constituencies by train, and say they drive by car, they

Travel expenses are only part of the honey pot. General expenses for a German deputy amount to £2,200 a month and are supposed to cover, for example, all telephone calls made outside their offices. This sum does not have to be accounted for.

The secretarial and staff allowance amounts to £6,420 a month. "This is a murky chapter," says Frau Roth. "Some people are employing half their families."

The most simple fiddle remains the attendance allowance of about £150 a day for hotel costs. Deputies often sleep in their offices and pocket the money. Many insist on keeping the Friday morning plenary session — which frequently lasts no more than an hour — in order to get the attendance fee for that day. The ITV documentary *The Big Story* filmed MEPs signing the Friday register and leaving immediately for the airport.

Few MEPs will discuss their personal claims, but some members are believed to milk up to £200,000 a year out of the system.

David Martin, a Labour MEP who is chairing a committee that is drawing up reforms on pay and allowances, said yesterday that only "5 or 10 per cent" were misusing the system.

Parliament leaders say it cannot be fully reformed until the EU gives deputies equal pay. At present they are paid by their home parliaments at the rate for domestic MPs.

Silvia Melis, 28, hugs her five-year-old son, Luca, yesterday, nine months after she was abducted from her car and held for a \$1 million ransom.

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

A WOMAN kidnapped by Sardinian bandits nine months ago was yesterday tearfully reunited with her small son after making a dramatic escape from her captors. But Italian newspapers cast doubt on her version of events, speculating that her family may have paid a ransom despite official denials.

However, a second kidnapping case had a tragic ending when Donato Cefola, 16, abducted earlier this week in Potenza, southern Italy, was found dead in a ditch in a village three miles from his home. In an unusual twist, the kidnappers, two men and two women, gave themselves up to police, saying a gun had gone off by mistake. Cefola disappeared while on his way to school, and the kidnappers left a ransom note on the windshield of his father's car.

Silvia Melis, 28, was snatched on February 19 by hooded members of

the feared "Anonima Sequestri" gang while parking her car outside her house at Tortolì, on Sardinia's east coast. Her son, Luca, was left sleeping in the back. Although kidnappings are common in Sardinia, the case became a *cause célèbre* in the media, and police mobilised hundreds of officers to comb the area. Yesterday Signora

"They treated me well enough, but I was always a prisoner," she said. "It was a nightmare." Asked to describe her kidnappers, she replied: "They were people like me, they were not animals — but they committed a heinous crime."

Signora Melis said that in an unguarded moment she had been left

‘It was a nightmare. They were people like me, they were not animals — but they committed a bestial crime’

Melis wept as she embraced Luca, who told her: "Mamma, I am five now." Signora Melis said: "It was my religious faith and my love for my son which saved me." She described being moved six times during her ordeal because the kidnappers were aware of the intensive police hunt and public outrage.

on her own and she had made a run for it. She found herself on a country road in the mountains near the town of Nuoro and stopped a police patrol car with the words: "I am Silvia Melis, please take me to my son." In Nuoro, which nestles beneath the spectacular peak of Mount Ortobene in central Sardinia, thousands poured into the

Monthly salary:	
Italy	£5,517
France	£4,211
Austria	(up to) £4,095
The Netherlands	£4,089
Germany	£4,077
Britain	£3,724
Belgium	£3,527
Irish Republic	£2,691
Luxembourg	£2,574
Denmark	£2,561
Finland	(up to) £2,409
Sweden	£2,363
Portugal	£1,985
Greece	£1,820
Spain	£1,752

□ Source: German Bundestag statistics



Gil Robles: given data on TV investigation

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Battle for success in sailing

Death-bed plea for 'Palestine' partition

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

Oslo: The Losers' Rights Union, founded by Norwegians who feel they just cannot win, is on the verge of economic failure. Ole Odegaard, the general secretary, said the group needs 200,000 kroner (€16,500) or it would close by the end of the year. (AP)



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on child battering, whooping cough, angina, hormone treatment and herpes

Signs of abuse doctors watch for

Like everyone else in Britain, doctors have been discussing the Louise Woodward case. Those who have had experience, however brief, of paediatrics, casualty or general practice have dealt with many cases such as that of Matthew Eappen, and they know that there is a pattern to baby battering. They also know that, however it happened, Matthew was injured not once but on at least three separate occasions (although the prosecution did not suggest Miss Woodward was responsible for the earlier injuries). Leading paediatricians fear that the outcome of this case, and the attendant emotion and excitement, will trivialise the horror of child battering, and may have tended to obscure the hallmarks of this offence, which every doctor should be looking for. It was implied by the defence team at the trial that the previously excellent character of Miss Woodward would make it unlikely that she had damaged Matthew. Some baby batterers do have an antisocial personality — previously known as psychopathic — and as such they would have shown persistent signs, from an early age, of being impulsive, irresponsible, unable to control their urges and emotions and unable to bear being thwarted, even by a child who defied them by constantly crying, but this applies to only a proportion of the cases. These people would also be emotionally blunted, free of anxiety and remorse, but not necessarily socially unappealing. As the judge said when passing sentence in Louise Woodward's case, this might have been a temporary lapse in part due to her inexperience. *Morck's Manual* is the standard textbook on medicine which is never out of reach of American hospital doctors and general practitioners. It lists five features that are characteristic of baby battering:

Repeated injury is highly suggestive of abuse or inadequate supervision



Zachary Houghton, aged two: his mother recognised the symptoms of whooping cough after doctors had misdiagnosed the illness

There is a reluctance on the part of the carer to give a history of the injury. There is an inconsistent history as to the cause of the injury and of the incident that necessitated the child's admission to hospital. The story of how the injury was caused is at variance with the apparent stage of recovery from the injury. There is a history of an injury that is incompatible with the developmental capabilities of the child. That is to say that the child is sometimes alleged to have hurt itself in a way that would be impossible given its physical development. There is an inappropriate response by the carer to the severity of the injury. There are delays in the reporting, and therefore the diagnosis, of the injury. In cases of child battering there are characteristically bony injuries that are in various stages of healing. X-rays of Matthew when finally admitted as an emergency showed that he had had an earlier fracture of the wrist. Later tests demonstrated that he had also suffered a previous fracture of the skull that predated his final collapse but was likely to have been caused after his wrist fracture. In the judge's view, it was his final injury that exacerbated earlier damage to his brain and caused his death. The accepted opinion is that repeated injury is highly suggestive of abuse or inadequate supervision. If Miss Woodward was, as the court decided,

responsible for Matthew's final injury, it is possible that any account of it that may be based on a very faulty memory, and therefore worthless. This is not to say that Miss Woodward is necessarily lying, for the mind has curious ways of subconsciously deleting from the memory events that are too distressing to contemplate. This attribute accounts for a proportion of those people who are known to have behaved badly, unwisely or criminally and who are thereafter able to rewrite history without, in their view, being in any way dishonest. The accused in these instances are likely to be suffering from an hysterical loss of memory, a fugue, in which there is a subconscious desire to forget the whole episode, a process which gives them the conviction that they are innocent. This psychological device, entirely subconscious, absolves them from the primary guilt of having committed the offence, and has the secondary advantage that it helps them to refute any charges that might have brought with them the threat of retribution. Louise Woodward has been found guilty of manslaughter, and her evidence, such as it was, has been rejected by the jury and the judge, but it shouldn't, therefore be assumed that she is deliberately lying. It could be that she has a genuine belief in her own innocence.

Inoculation that can fail the young

ZACHARY HAUGHTON developed classic symptoms of whooping cough, misdiagnosed by doctors but eventually recognised by his mother. The doctors had discounted whooping cough because Zachary — who is now two — had been immunised. Zachary's mother, Emma, has written an account of the troubles her son has had since the summer after being infected by his elder brother, who had lesser symptoms and had caught the virus at school. Contrary to popular belief, neither an actual attack nor the injections give guaranteed immunity for life. But any subsequent infection, if one occurs, tends to be less severe — so much so that, as the Haughton family have discovered, they often go undiagnosed. The incubation period for whooping cough is usually about a fortnight, but varies from seven to 14 days. The infection starts like a common cold with a runny nose, weeping eyes and a hacking cough. Later, the patient is racked by paroxysms of coughing, which are frequently followed by a gasping, in-drawing of breath. As in Zachary's case, vomiting is a feature. It often follows coughing but may be independent of it. Convalescence takes a month or two, but the classic cough may last for many months. Inoculated children are rarely severely affected by whooping cough, whereas in the past, before the possibility of immunisation, it was a frightening and sometimes fatal disease for children aged under two.

Fresh hope for angina sufferers

I'm told that I underrated the misfortunes that recently befell Britain's ambassadorial team in Brussels. The series of mishaps culminated with Lady Goulden, wife of the representative to Nato, needing urgent coronary bypass surgery after being afflicted by unstable angina. As recently as three years ago, some doctors were unaware that there were different types of angina. Patients who have stable, exercise-related angina should be investigated, but they are likely to avoid serious trouble for many years. Unstable angina may represent a much greater threat to health, and even survival. It is diagnosed when patients complain of a chest pain that comes on at rest or after minimal activity. Unstable angina may be caused by a progressive narrowing of the coronary arteries, or by rupture of one of the atherosclerotic plaques, the lumps of fatty material that stick to the inside of the artery wall. A rupture of an atherosclerotic plaque accounts for 50 to 60 per cent of the patients with unstable angina admitted to hospital. It is an ominous form of angina, with 5 per cent of its victims dying within a week of the attack, and 12 per cent within six months. The sudden onset of unstable angina may be the first indication that a patient has coronary arterial disease, or it may represent a worsening in the condition in people who are already known to have straightforward angina, or who have had a previous heart attack. As many people are admitted to hospital with severe unstable angina as are admitted with a coronary thrombosis. Among the doctors who have been investigating angina in all its forms are Professor Derek Yellon of University College, London and Dr Kim Fox of the Royal Brompton Hospital, London. They have shown that heart attack patients who have recurrent minor bouts of angina as a result of a narrowed artery fare better than those whose attack follows the sudden fragmentation of a plaque without any previous history of angina. This protective phenomenon is called ischaemic preconditioning. During the process the heart becomes accustomed to being deprived of an adequate blood supply and adjusts to it with the development of secondary smaller arteries, which form a natural bypass. When the heart attack strikes there is less damage to the heart muscle, and less likelihood that essential organs are starved of oxygenated blood. The good news announced by Professor Yellon and Dr Fox at a recent cardiologists' conference in America is that if angina is treated with a potassium channel opener, the tablets not only relieve the pain but artificially produce ischaemic preconditioning. Koral nicorandil is the only potassium channel opener licensed for the treatment of angina in the United Kingdom. It works by dilating large and small coronary arteries, and by reducing the heart's workload. The hope is that if it is used to treat people with stable angina, they will be protected should the unstable condition ever supervene.

HRT reduces heart disease

THE Imperial Cancer Research Fund's analysis of 51 research projects throughout the world has shown that taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) gives clear advantages in reducing death from cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. The research confirms that HRT does to a small extent increase the risk of breast cancer, but that this disappears within five years of discontinuing treatment. The risk of breast cancer increases progressively with the length of time HRT is taken. The rate in non-users of HRT is 45 per 1,000 women, increasing to 47, 51 and 57 per 1,000 after 5, 10 or 15 years respectively of HRT use. As the use of HRT becomes more acceptable, so does the clamour against the use of those drugs that are made from the urine of pregnant mares — Premarin, Prempro, C. Premique and Premique Cycle. An appreciable number of the thousands of foals that are the by-product of hormone manufacture are slaughtered at the age of four months. These four HRT preparations are the only ones that involve the farming of mares in stalls, and later the death of some of their foals. Other HRT preparations can be taken with an easy conscience by animal-lovers.



Horses need not suffer

Herpes cases on increase

TODAY'S lovers reassure themselves that although genital herpes was a worry in the Seventies and Eighties, the danger has now passed. How wrong they are. Although herpes no longer engenders the fear it once did, it is not only still around, but it is more prevalent than ever. Both the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *British Medical Journal* have recently reported on its incidence. The number of younger people who have been infected with herpes in the six years to 1994 was 30 per cent higher than it was between 1976 and 1980. Fortunately, treatment is available for acute attacks of genital herpes or when necessary to keep the skin pristine, and the virus confined to the central nervous system. In some cases, particularly in women, acute attacks can be disabling, but in most people the recurrent bouts turn out to be no more than an itchy, tender nuisance. The anxiety that used to be felt when pregnant women developed herpes is thought to be excessive unless she is having a severe attack at the time of delivery. Five 200mg tablets per day for five days of Zovirax (Aciclovir), or one tablet twice a day of Valtrex (Valaciclovir) for five to ten days can vanquish an acute attack, or in smaller doses to prevent its recurrence.

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ARTS

Dead man working: Tim Robbins on his new film, Nothing to Lose. Pages 34-37

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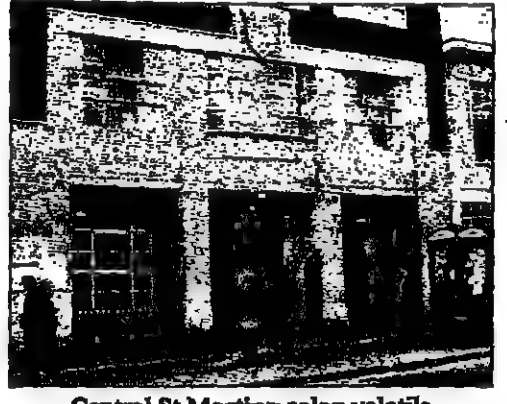
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Inoculation
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The high price of fashion fame

Its reputation as a hothouse for fashion talent is unrivalled. But now something disturbing is happening at St Martins. Jason Cowley reports.

The fashion faculty of Central St Martins College of Art and Design occupies a prime location on Charing Cross Road, but you can easily miss it amid the book superstores, crawl of traffic and autumn crowds. It looks more like a dilapidated office block than home to arguably the world's most famous fashion college, and it is little better inside: the lift-shaft is broken, walls are crumbling, and lecture rooms have a shabby desolation. Everything is covered by a thin film of dust. Yet from this squalid environment have emerged some of the world's most influential designers, style commentators and fashion stylists. Former students include Alexander McQueen, John Galiano, head designers of the French houses Givenchy and Dior; and among recent graduates are Antonio Berardi, Hussein Chalayan, Suzanne Clements, Inacio Ribeiro — who together form the design duo Clements Ribeiro — and Stella McCartney, head designer at Chanel.



Central St Martins: salon volatile

The writer Drusilla Beyfus is on the teaching staff, and Paul Smith and Katharine Hamnett are guest lecturers. Overseeing everything is Wendy Dagworthy, recently featured in the style magazine *IT*'s list of the most influential people in British fashion. She had her own cult label in the 1970s and early 1980s, and has been director of the BA fashion course since 1988.

"St Martins is the best: its reputation for excellence is unrivalled in Europe," says Katie Grand, fashion editor of *Dazed and Confused* magazine and a former student. "Its success has less to do with the teaching staff, who can leave you to your own devices, than with the kind of people who go there: they are uniquely committed to a career in fashion. They know that a degree from St Martins can be a passport to international renown."

There are few industries more competitive than fashion. The endless search for originality, the egotism, the creative rivalry, the hard focus on the body, the prevailing nastiness, the adulation and

glittering rewards: all generate a kind of punitive hysteria. Central St Martins is the fashion business in microcosm — a volatile place, where, concedes Jane Rapley, Dean of Fashion, the "strange chemistry" among the class of '97 has created an atmosphere unusual even in an institution as creatively fraught as this one.

As Matthew Williamson, a recent star of London Fashion Week and a St Martins graduate in 1994, puts it: "It's so competitive, it really is a case of sink or swim. Everyone wants to be a star, to have their own line, collections and catwalk shows. The high profile of the school and its star

going on at the flagship of British creative education?

One student offers this insight: "St Martins is one of the most unpleasant places I've been in. There is terrible rivalry, really cut-throat. Things were so bad in the run-up to the press show in Graduate Fashion Week this summer that some teachers considered hiring bodyguards, because they'd received death threats from students whose work was not chosen."

The question of selection for the press show is an open wound that continues to fester. Until this summer all students had the opportunity to show their collections to fashion journalists, buyers from the big stores and talent scouts from the leading fashion houses at a special press show organised by the college as part of Graduate Fashion Week. But an inexorable rise in student numbers (since 1989 the figure has more than trebled, to 480) and a wish to streamline the press show led the school to introduce an unpopular policy of selection.

As a result, more than half of all final year students missed out from showcasing their work in the press show; they were left to display their portfolios at the low-profile "static" exhibition that runs alongside the main press event. Anxiety at being excluded from the press show is thought to have contributed to what even Jane Rapley agrees are feelings of hysteria.

"The real problem," says one male student, "was we were told about this change of policy in the middle of our course; we had joined the college thinking everyone was guaranteed a press show." Yet the number of applicants continues to rise. At St Martins, which has four London sites, students can study anything from graphics and fine art to theatre design and sculpture. The fashion school has six distinct degree courses: fashion design (menswear or women's wear); design with marketing; fashion textiles, and fashion journalism, communications and promotion. There are six applicants for every place; almost a third of all under-

names amplifies expectation. On a slow afternoon the students slouch around tables in the refectory, smoking and drinking coffee. Most resemble extras from the set of, say, *Mad Max* or *Robocop*: gravity-defying hairstyles, pierced noses, exotic clothes. They seem relaxed enough, but talking to them, you begin to realise that something is seriously wrong. That recent events at the school have left them confused and uneasy.

For in the past year, one student set himself alight and suffered appalling injuries, another nearly starved himself to death, while a third has left the school and is thought to be living as a virtual recluse in a London suburb. All three were second-year students in their early twenties. A fourth student, in her early thirties, had a heart attack and had to leave the college.

Fashion schools are notoriously peopled with self-consciously neurotic outsiders; but the current atmosphere of self-harm and alienation at the school is something altogether more disturbing. So, what is



Famous names from the fashion faculty of Central St Martins College of Art and Design. Clockwise from top left: John Galiano, Stella McCartney, Inacio Ribeiro and Suzanne Clements, Matthew Williamson. Above them, two of the outlandish designs by students at the school, shown during this year's London Fashion Week

graduates are from overseas. Ms Rapley concedes that some do have difficulty adjusting to the intense competition.

Abigail Rayner, who graduated in 1996 and works as a freelance writer, says: "What I remember most was the rivalry and hatred among the students. It was not uncommon to steal each other's collections on the eve of the main graduate shows, and dump them in the bins on Charing Cross Road."

Jane Rapley talks to me candidly of the "volatility of the past 12 months", and of the "strange chemistry" that existed among the graduates of 1997. The decision to introduce selection at the press show was unpopular, but necessary — the event was becoming too unwieldy and not every student's work was suited to a catwalk performance.

"And if the students had bothered to read the prospectus, they would have seen that they had no automatic right to be in the fashion show; it is not formally part of the assessment process."

She denies that staff required bodyguards because of death threats; but "as with all these things, there is a grain of truth in them: security was bolstered for the show but for reasons unconnected [with the dispute]". She says: "I suspect that a lot of the hysteria is coming from a handful of students who weren't selected for the show. What has to be remembered about St Martins is that its pre-eminence creates its own pressure. Fashion attracts a competitive animal, and many students, excited by the media coverage surrounding the likes of McQueen and Galiano, aspire to succeed at the glamorous end of it."

All this creates a highly charged environment. We are aware that, in some years, this can get dangerously destructive. My staff are very conscious of the need to defuse tensions. Each student has a personal tutor, and a network of support, from counsellors to legal advice, is available. "Our students are young adults, responsible for their personal lives. If they don't want to share their problems with us, we can't force them."

She denies any causal link between the suicide attempts and the school, and points out

that the woman who had a heart attack had a history of heart disease before entering the school. "I am aware of only one genuine suicide attempt, the girl who set herself on fire," Ms Rapley says. "She will come back when she is ready. There may have been others I don't know about."

What about the boy who stopped eating? "Yes, another student did feel very pressured and was having severe problems; he is an overseas student and was struggling to adjust to life in London. He had a kind of breakdown. He is back with us now and is getting on well. As for the third student — I think I know who you mean — well, he is a special case."

"Students carry baggage from their past; they have personal problems unconnected with St Martins. Many come from disparate backgrounds and may not have the support of a stable family." As for the unfortunate students' peers, they are entering their crucial final year, which holds the key to all their hopes and boundless ambition. "This is an anxious time," says Ms Rapley. "We do not set out to be destructive. Striving for excellence is built into our students, and generates its own tensions. But once they get back into their work, everything should be back to normal by Christmas."

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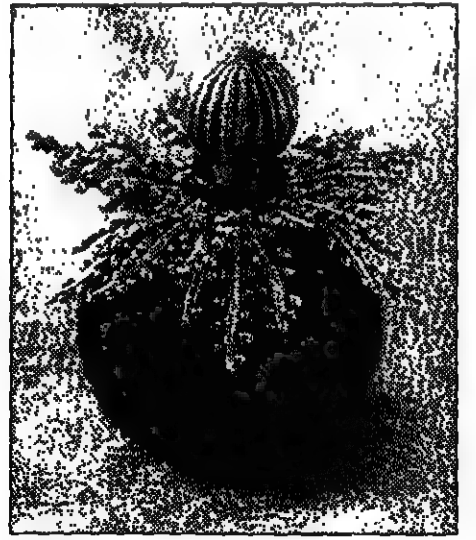
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Would you pay to clean up politics?

Vernon Bogdanor argues for state funding of parties

The Labour Party's decision to return the £1 million donation to Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Association, raises yet again the question of how our political parties should be funded. The ideal would be financing entirely through membership subscriptions and small donations, but this is rarely achieved in modern democracies.

On the Continent, the State generally aids political parties in proportion to votes won or seats gained. In North America, state aid is triggered through the decisions of individuals, whose donations to candidates and parties qualify for tax relief or tax credits. Ronald Reagan's libertarian principles did not prevent him from accepting public funding for his presidential campaigns in 1980 and 1984.

In Britain, by contrast, much of the funding of the two major parties derives from companies and trade unions. A good deal of this is provided without securing the consent of those whose money it is. In 1991 Pensions Investment Research Consultants surveyed 35 companies which made political contributions. Only three had consulted their shareholders.

About 30 per cent of trade unionists usually "contract out" of the political levy. Yet, in 1992, for example, around 53 per cent of trade unionists voted for parties other than Labour. There is, therefore, good reason to believe that many non-Labour trade unionists unwittingly contribute to the political fund, whether through inertia or ignorance.

The connection between political donations and honours is a further unsavoury feature of the current system. Some 6 per cent of companies make donations to the Conservative Party; yet, during the years of Conservative Government, from 1979 to 1997, 30 per cent of knights and peerages went to directors of companies making such donations. It is not easy to explain this correlation. Perhaps company donations have become the rich man's political levy, with the individual trafficking in honours which characterised the Lloyd George regime having been overtaken by a system of bulk purchase.

Too high a proportion of political funding is furnished, coming from sources which serve sectional interests. Moreover, the power of these interests is in conflict with the fundamental democratic principle of "one person, one vote".

Under both John Smith and Tony Blair, Labour has sought to become less reliant on the unions. "Nobody," Mr Blair declared in 1995, "seriously believes that the business of the Labour Party is to be the political arm of the trade union movement." In 1974, the unions contributed no less than 92 per cent of the party's central income by 1995. However, the unions for the first time contributed less than half of its income. The consequence has been greater reliance on rich donors and on companies. Without state aid that is inevitable.

The fundamental argument against state aid is that political parties are voluntary organisations. Yet the State already subsidises the political process in a number of ways. Public meeting rooms are provided free to election candidates, and election addresses are delivered free. Gifts to parties are exempt from inheritance tax and bequests of up to £1,000 are exempt from capital transfer tax. More important, broadcasters are required to provide party political broadcasts, whose annual value is about £3 million for each party, and party election broadcasts, whose value is around £10 million for each party.

Since 1937 the Leader of the Opposition has been paid a salary out of public funds, and, since 1975, state aid has been given to the Opposition parties. Although such payments have been restricted to the parties in Parliament, they free party funds to be spent outside Parliament.

Thus, we already have an ad hoc and unacknowledged system of state aid. To provide aid for the parties outside Parliament would introduce no new principle into our democracy; it would merely extend the operation of a principle that has already been accepted.

A further objection to public funding is that the State should not be called upon to assist parties in financial difficulties. State aid, it is suggested, would discourage participation, making the parties over-reliant on public funds and more remote from their members and supporters.

Yet state aid can be made conditional upon some visible index of public support, such as party membership. In my book, *Power and the People*, I outlined a scheme by which party membership subscriptions could "trigger" state aid. For each £10 raised, for example, the State could make a matching payment of £10. If a ceiling of aid were calculated so that, to achieve a maximum, each party would have to secure membership subscriptions from one in twelve of those who had voted for it in the previous general election, the total cost to the Exchequer would be less than £30 million a year.

The issue of state funding is one of choice versus compulsion, but of institutional versus public funding. With public funding, the parties would be less reliant on institutional finance. Companies making political donations could be required, like trade unions, to establish a separate political fund, after a postal vote every ten years by shareholders. Collective shareholders such as pension funds should be required to contract out, as should individuals without a United Kingdom address. Other individual shareholders should be given the option of contracting out.

With public funding, the special interests would be weakened and the general interest strengthened. The cost involved would be a small price to pay for strengthening our democratic system.

The author is Professor of Government at Oxford University.



UNSTABLE GERMAN PROJECT IN NEED OF A RE-THINK...

Principle v pragmatism

In the intellectual debate over the euro, Blair comes a poor third

The interaction between three leading politicians, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and William Hague, may decide whether Britain ever enters the single currency. Each has a different point of view. Mr Blair is a pragmatic single-currency supporter, in favour of the euro in principle, but unwilling to risk his party's political future, and content with postponing the decision until after the next election.

"Our own position will be judged on a hard-headed assessment of the economic benefits," is what he says. In fact, his decision will be more political than economic. Mr Blair is an intuitive politician of the first rank, but he will not find it easy to feel his way through this issue.

Gordon Brown is a genuine enthusiast. Whether or not he recently tried to bounce the Prime Minister into an early referendum, he hopes to use the process of preparation to build a psychological momentum towards British entry. He speaks of "the practical steps Government and industry will need to take before a decision to join the single currency". He does not speak, as Mr Blair might, of a decision "whether" to join the single currency. For him, the decision has already been made; for Tony Blair, it has not.

The decision has been made in the opposite sense by William Hague. His policy is to oppose British entry in this Parliament or the next. He will fight the next election, and, if necessary, the referendum, under the banner of "no entry". On Monday Mr Brown and Mr Hague spoke to the CBI. Where Brown concentrated on the preparations, and based his case for British entry mainly on the secondary issue of transaction costs, Hague discussed the central economic issues. If this was a debate, Hague won it.

The well financed pro-entry lobby speaks of economic convergence as though it were a once-for-all state of grace which, when achieved, will be permanent. Mr Hague was more realistic: "The British and German business cycles are, if anything, diverging... Sustained convergence is not some theoretical concept that only economic professionals need worry about. It goes to the heart of whether a single currency can work." Those of us, such as Martin Taylor of Barclays Bank, who are "EMU-sceptic", have repeatedly raised the convergence issue without getting any convincing answer; William

Hague is right to demand one. He also raised the issue, which may intellectually be the most important of the relationship between exchange rates and employment. This is a central theme of Maynard Keynes's best-known book, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, 1936. Mr Hague made Keynes's point that exchange-rate adjustments and wage costs can become policy alternatives. If you cannot devalue, you may have to force wages down. Keynes himself thought that only a fascist state could do that.

"Wages," Mr Hague said, "have not fallen since the Great Depression. Before the CBI shakes hands with the TUC on a single currency, you should fix them in the eye and ask them if they are prepared to tell their members that they might have to accept a pay cut." Keynes came to the conclusion that "the maintenance of a stable general level of money-wages is... the most advisable policy... provided that equilibrium with the rest of the world can be secured by means of fluctuating exchanges". The italics are mine. The single currency is a system of disequilibrium for Europe, because it makes this adjustment impossible.

Mr Hague also questioned whether one can combine a single European currency with separate national budgets. "Your companies would have to pay higher taxes so that poorer countries can be protected from the effects of a single currency." In this speech he has challenged the Government on its chosen ground. He is not yet arguing the constitutional case, which the Prime Minister so foolishly pretends does not exist; he is arguing the economic case, which the Prime Minister says will be decisive.

There are gaps between the three men's intellectual grasp of the subject. If this week's CBI speeches on the single currency had to be put before academic examiners, Tony Blair would get an athlete's third, "ill thought-out, under-researched, superficial and failing to identify the

main issues". Gordon Brown would get a second, "unoriginal, missing the main issues, but showing signs of work on secondary issues without having any real sense of relevance". William Hague would get a first, "identifies the main issues, defines the questions which need to be resolved, shows substantial understanding of economic theory, well focused".

Of course, elitists will say that this intellectual argument does not matter, because the people are too stupid to decide their own future. Herr Bernd Fischer, the chairman of BMW, told the CBI: "You can't have a public opinion poll on whether monetary union is good or bad." He is mistaken. The British people have a long history of getting things right; as well as stronger than that of the elite. The Government cannot assume that people will be too thick to notice if ministers continue to produce feeble answers to William Hague's good questions. The general public know that this is an issue of national survival, even if ministers do not.

Mr Hague's political decisiveness is encouraging. When Margaret Thatcher became Leader of the Opposition, she had to face the fact that she was in a minority in her own Shadow Cabinet. It was not until 1981, when she had been leader for six years, that she achieved a marginally Thatcherite Cabinet: even then she still had "Wets" in key ministries. Mr Hague saw the failure of John Major's European compromise, and has immediately moved to a coherent EMU-accepting policy. The Conservative opposition to his policy survives only outside the Shadow Cabinet: it consists largely of retired former ministers from earlier periods. Hague has been the toughest and quickest reconstruction of the Tory party since 1940, and he has largely united the party behind it.

Quite a number of redundant elders of the party naturally resent so rapid a termination of their political careers. Yet the policy itself is popular in the party, and appeals to a section of the electorate which did not vote Conservative at the general election. Those who do not want to join the single currency now have a leader they can follow with confidence. Weak and inarticulate leaders are not much use on the European issue. Hague is articulate and strong.

The Labour Party may seem to be united, but Tony Blair may find his Cabinet hard to hold together. The relationship between a Prime Minister and a Chancellor of the Exchequer is usually rather tense, unless the Chancellor is weak and subordinate. Gordon Brown is not that. For him the European issue is an emotional one, but it is a pragmatic one for the Prime Minister. From now on every euro policy will have to be negotiated between Brown's principle and Blair's pragmatism: the two men are temperamentally far apart, and Gordon Brown sees Tony Blair as his successful but rather undeserving rival for Downing Street.

Lobbyists for the euro claim that British entry is inevitable, that the euro will be a success, and that the only pity is that we shall not be joining at the beginning. This argument of historical inevitability is always a bad one, and in this case it is particularly weak. No doubt Britain may decide to join if the economic climate of the next five years proves unexpectedly benign and stable. Yet no one knows what the British economy will be like between now and 2002: I rather expect it will go through one of Tim Congdon's "sour spots". It is presumptuous to forecast the outcome of a possible referendum in 2002, but we can already see how the battle is shaping.

Economic and monetary union is an issue on which many people, as well as Gordon Brown, hold passionate views. That is reasonable enough. It affects our whole national future, jobs, wages, taxes and, above all, the independence of Britain. There is a parallel with the politics of 1940. Then, as Andrew Roberts has written, the old Chamberlainite loyalists resented Winston Churchill because he had replaced their man. It was the people who believed in him. When the independence of Britain is at stake, it is the people we should trust. So far as I can see, William Hague does trust them, and I believe they will come to trust him.

The end of a free for all

Magnus Linklater on the dilemma of our museums

A turnout in Venice, and it is still shuffling room only in St Mark's Cathedral. The tourists stand shoulder to shoulder, gazing at the mosaics, and those astonishing gilded domes, before swilling out again into the sunlight. Nearly five million tourists come here every year, and most of them, at some point, step inside this "treasure heap of gold", as Ruskin called it. They do so for free.

A gondola ride away, up the Grand Canal, the Accademia, one of the world's great galleries, bristling with Titians, Bellinis, and Tintorettos, ranks almost as high on the essential list. It draws, however, fewer than 400,000 people, 8 per cent of the annual total; it charges an entrance fee — just 12,000 lire, or about £4. Enough, however, to persuade the casual tourist to glide on past.

That, in crude terms, is the dilemma facing museums in Britain as they contemplate the near-inevitability of introducing entry fees. Charging, it seems, does put people off. Why does Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum (free — more than one million visitors a year) attract nearly twice as many people as the rather more famous Prado in Madrid (fewer than 600,000)? Why have annual visitor numbers at the British Museum (still free) grown from 3.8 to 6.8 million in ten years, while the Natural History Museum is down from 3.2 million to 1.8? Statistics such as these fly in the face of a survey this week from Glasgow Caledonian University and the Central Office of Information, which claimed that price was not a serious factor in putting off prospective visitors.

The report came amid much hand-wringing from the museum world, meeting in London on Tuesday. The Government has shifted its position, with the Arts Minister Mark Fisher backing away from the principle of free admission, and urging museums to behave like Marks & Spencer or Harvey Nichols. Some directors, such as Alan Borg of the Victoria and Albert, have positively embraced the idea of charging, suggesting that free entry amounts to providing a subsidy for the middle classes. But most still shrink from it.

They do so for reasons that are part emotional, part commercial. The emotional argument goes back to the origins of museums themselves, those Victorian engines of social improvement, whose doors were open to all and which welcomed everyone from the expert researcher to "the curious and those seeking shelter from the rain". Imposing charges is bound to put off those least able to afford them.

The commercial argument is one that has to be confronted by any museum with declining resources and a grant which has been cut in real terms by as much as 20 per cent in less than four years. Next January the Royal Museum in Edinburgh will impose a £3 adult charge for the first time in its history. Its director, Mark Jones, knows that attendance will decline initially by between 20 and 30 per cent. Some people will simply stop coming.

But he knows, too, that this will impose certain changes — and they may not necessarily be for the worse. Used intelligently, the income from admission charges can help to improve the way a museum presents itself to the world. The Royal Museum in Edinburgh will net an additional £700,000 a year, and, more importantly, will be able to reclaim more than £1 million in VAT. This will help to bring exhibits out of stock and improve access for the young through greater use of interactive technology — the modern version of those push-button steam engines in the Science Museum.

Heavily discounted annual tickets can encourage regular visits. One detailed survey in Ireland suggests that as many as a third of all visitors to national museums never even look at an exhibit. They use them as rendezvous, to shelter from the weather or as a convenient café. Charging less, it is concluded, would encourage "quality" visits, with more people spending time actually looking at the displays.

There are encouraging trends. At one extreme, the Louvre in Paris, with its massive refurbishment, has greatly increased its attendance figures. At the other, visitor numbers at the Museum of Flight in Scotland slumped from 40,000 to 28,000 after introducing charges, then climbed to 30,000 because of a complete overhaul by an energetic new director. The truth about the Accademia in Venice may be less about ticket charges than its forbidding exterior, the dim way it displays its treasures, perhaps even its daunting name.

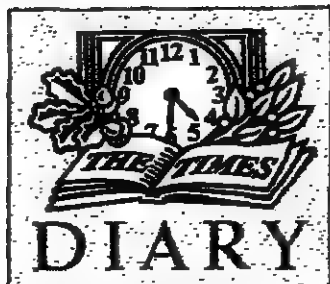
No one doubts that something precious is lost when a great museum tells the world it is no longer open to all and free at the point of access. Mr Fisher's injunction that museums should be more like Marks & Spencer misses the fundamental point that they are cultural assets, not grocer's shops. But if the State is now to back away from support, it need not be the end of civilisation as we know it. The future for museums may be harsher, more materialistic, and certainly more expensive. But it need not necessarily be worse.

Berlin wall

THEY were colossi in British academia and both were internationally renowned for their scholarship. But while A.L. Rowse, who died last month, received virtually no official recognition for his work, Sir Isaiah Berlin departed last week laden with honours. Observers have liked to blame the humiliation on Rowse's irritability when compared with Sir Isaiah's warmth. But now I have learnt the real reason: the Tudor historian fell foul of the Maecenas men, a secretive and influential committee which advises the Government about which men of letters should receive a gong.

The group, named after C. Clinius Maecenas, the Roman patron of Virgil and Horace, included none other than Sir Isaiah, who for decades conducted a feud with Rowse. The trigger is long forgotten, but essentially it was a personality clash.

It prevented Rowse from being appointed anything until he was virtually on his deathbed, aged 93 — and then a "mere" Companion of Honour. By contrast, the Latvian-born philosopher was appointed CBE in 1946, knighted in 1957 and admitted to the Order of Merit in 1971, which led to him becoming its senior non-royal. Maecenas's generosity ensured that two millennia later we can still enjoy the best classical writers. It is a pity, but also rather inevitable, that his name has become linked to intellectual rivalry.



me to bid," suggested Mr Boateng. The kid should go far.

Peer pressure

TRUANCY news. The speakers' list in the Upper House ends with a rather surly note which "once again" reminds peers that they should not speak out of debates in which they have spoken. "A lord who leaves early cannot be expected to be answered by the Minister," it huffs. I hope this is not inspired by the venerable Lord Scarman, who last week scuttled away from a debate pleading "pressing business". Quite how he was pressed, conducting what business, he failed to explain.

● Bruised egos. Chris de Burgh, an Irish entertainer, is claiming that he was to team up with Elton

John for his song, *Candle in the Wind*. "Our managers have spoken," he says. "But it would have turned into a competition, and that would have been a mistake." Who for?

Money talks

HOW well did money is spent. George Foulkes, having doled out £41 million to Monserrat, has discovered that some of the money is ending up in the big pockets of a London PR outfit. Profile Corporate Communications has been helping the Monserrat Government to lobby for more cash. "We keep our eye on what is going on at Westminster for them,"



says a PR flunky. Profile groomed the Chief Minister, David Brand, when he came begging and is still lobbying for more help. Ministers at International Development are losing sympathy: "It is a bit much. We can think of better things to spend the money on."

● BRAVE behaviour. Bob Marshall-Andrews, the Labour MP, has bombarded Peter "Dome Head" Mandelson, with "unhelpful" written questions about the Millennium Experience. MA says Mandelson's answers are "totally inadequate", remarking: "While I may not be a very good QC, I know when a question has not been answered." He has now tabled a Commons motion, demanding details of the accounts. Several new MPs have made their first rebellious foray by signing the motion. Good luck; Peter makes a good friend but a dangerous enemy.

Uneasy Ryder

THE fulsome charms of Winona Ryder have worn off on her producers. Ms Ryder, star of minor flicks like *The Crucible*, had been lined up to play Veronica Guerin, the Irish journalist murdered after she probed a little too deeply into the murky underbelly of Dublin. No more. Since the reporter's



Losers: Winona

death, the film will address Veronica Guerin's life in earlier style. And producers are worried about the actress's, or "range", Peter Newman, executive producer, is subdued: "The script rewrites were not in keeping with Ryder's version of the role."

JASPER GERARD



TARGET IRAQ'S ARSENAL

Saddam keeps killer chemicals because he wants to use them

Iraq's latest confrontation with the United Nations is the most serious since it was driven out of Kuwait in 1991. President Saddam Hussein is not just testing the bars of the prison windows this time; he is trying to force the main gate. The freedom he seeks is the freedom to rebuild his chemical, biological and nuclear capability, weaponry forbidden to Iraq both under international law and, explicitly, under the terms of the Security Council ceasefire resolution. His challenge is to the Security Council's authority to ensure that he does not do so.

Saddam acted at the first sign of disunity in the council. Iraq has persistently obstructed the vital work of Unscorn, the UN inspectorate charged with destroying Iraq's illegal arsenals and preventing it from rebuilding them. This time, Saddam has halted its work altogether, by preventing American members of the UN team from conducting inspections and threatening to bar them from the country. There could be no clearer, or more important, violation of the 1991 ceasefire resolutions — and no clearer threat to peace.

Every member of the council has acknowledged the gravity of this challenge; all, including Russia, China and France, say that on this issue, there can be no compromise. None can be in doubt about the urgency of resuming Unscorn's work. They know, from Unscorn's Australian head, Richard Butler, that since Iraq blocked the inspectors, it has hidden or moved equipment and incriminating evidence — including two fermenters capable of producing a biological weapon within a week.

Yet disunity persists and even deepens. The Security Council cannot agree to find Iraq in "material breach" of its obligations under the ceasefire because that would automatically lay Iraq open to military action. The latest resolution on the council table does not even repeat the warning of "serious consequences" it issued last month when this confrontation began.

Preserving council unity, as America and Britain have sought to do, is important; but not at the price of paralysis. The means matter less than the end, which is and

always has been to deprive a regime, which holds international law in contempt, of the capacity to menace peace and security. Saddam's latest act of defiance underlines his determination to retain it.

Some of the post-Gulf assumptions of Western policy need to be rethought. Governments which argued that Saddam's main aim, beyond staying in power, was to obtain the lifting of international sanctions and resume exports of Iraqi oil have been proved wrong. Saddam has known since 1991 that whatever Washington's preferences, it would be almost impossible to keep UN sanctions in place once Unscorn was able to certify that Iraq's outlawed weapons had been destroyed and that the UN had in place effective monitoring systems against their future production. By obstructing Unscorn's work, he has already forfeited more than \$100 billion in oil sales. By stopping it, he has made certain that the sanctions will continue. The only logical conclusion is that the inspectors were getting close to what he most wanted to hide. And if his priority is protecting these military secrets, that can only be because he has not abandoned his aggressive ambitions.

Both America and Britain would prefer not to resort to military action, particularly when this has the backing neither of France or Russia, nor of important allies in the Middle East. But all that the past fortnight's diplomacy has constructed is a grandstand for Iraq to trumpet that it retains the power to hold the world to ransom.

Military strikes will not topple Saddam, who will milk them for propaganda. But if they destroyed even part of his store of VX nerve agents, of the hundreds of tons of precursor agents that remain unaccounted for and of military and intelligence installations that he has prevented Unscorn from scouring, military action would do some of Unscorn's work for it. Saddam can be left with only two choices: to co-operate with the UN in the destruction of his illegal weapons capability, or see it disabled by other means. Military strikes with that purpose in mind would not be token gestures; they should not, in advance, be dismissed as ineffective.

LOCAL SCANDAL

Take early retirement and defraud the taxpayer

Life is so stressful in local government these days. First you have the trouble of persuading your GP to sign you off for early retirement on the ground of ill-health. Then, having won a full pension for the medical condition of merely being in your 50s, you have the strain of reapplying for a consultancy with your old employer. Finally, there is the pain of watching younger employees paying more into the pension fund or of seeing schools, roads and libraries deteriorate for lack of cash.

This is no joke. A report on early retirement in local government published by the Audit Commission today uncovers a scandal that deserves to let loose a taxpayer revolt. Over five years, the cost of allowing workers to retire early amounts to a staggering £5.7 billion, enough to clear the capital repairs backlog of every school in England and Wales and mend all the roads that are maintained by local authorities.

Only 21 per cent of local government workers now retire at 60, the official age. In some councils, the figure is less than 10 per cent. Of those who retire early, over half do so for reasons of ill-health. Yet people are living longer, healthier lives. And the variation between councils confirms that sickness must be little more than an excuse. In some authorities, around 70 per cent of retirements are ostensibly on health grounds; in others, the figure is less than 20 per cent, in line with the private sector.

For a small short-term gain, local authorities are condemning themselves to serious long-term pain. The volume of early retirement, says the Audit Commission, "calls into question the long-term sustainability" of the local government pension fund. Authorities "are mortgaging the future". A scheme that was designed on the assumption that employees would work for 40 years and

retire for 20 is now facing a ratio of nearer 30:30, "placing great strain on funds".

How has this been allowed to happen? Councils started to use early retirement as a way of thinning staff without encountering union resistance. Overall employment has fallen by 8 per cent over the past decade. But early retirement has become to be seen as an expectation rather than an exception. The number of non-manual jobs has actually risen by around 15 per cent, yet it is among these white-collar staff that most of the early retirement has been seen.

What makes it worse is that authorities do not penalise their staff for retiring early; quite the reverse. Most private sector companies pay their early retiring employees smaller pensions to reflect the cost of paying out for more years. But local councils pay just as much as they would have done at 60 and, what is more, they increase the number of years on which the employees' pension is technically based. This hugely compounds the expense. If a private company were to allow such inroads to be made into its pension fund, particularly on spurious medical grounds, the directors would be sacked. There is no excuse for such negligent stewardship. The scandal is all the more serious when public money is involved.

Something has to be done to change the culture. Early retirement should be seen as a last, not a first, resort. If council workers find their jobs stressful, they should be given less stressful work, not put out to grass. Where it cannot be avoided, councillors should insist on being involved in the decision. Already authorities are going to have to divert money from public services to make up the shortfall in their pension funds. Voters ought to take a dim view of the story so far. Councillors who ignore this report deserve wholesale ejection from office.

MUSICAL WINE BARS

Drink to the girl at the checkout counter only with thine ears

As our Science Editor reports today, shoppers in supermarkets seem to be influenced in their choice of wines by the music played in the aisles. Rollicking German Bierkeller music overcomes native British resistance to unpronounceable foreign names such as Liebfraumilch. Sales of German wines soar and crates of Blue Nun hit the trolleys faster than from any fancy new advertising campaign. When the trolleys clatter to the sound of plaintive Parisian accordion music, the tunes sung by Maurice Chevalier and Edith Piaf, empty are the shelves of French Chateau This and That. The music research group of the psychology department at Leicester University concludes that national music triggers "superordinate knowledge structures".

Where goes the next step for the subliminal salesman and his programming of music. Airlines already play insipid tunes at landing and take-off to reassure passengers that they are safe in a familiar cocoon. Lifts play Muzak to relieve the anxiety of close proximity to strangers without talking. Commercially already brand products acoustically with tunes. Carmina Burana

signals pungent after-shave. Air on a G String sounds a popular cigar.

But if music can influence the choice of shoppers as precisely as this new research suggests, supermarkets are going to become variety halls. The Beach Boys can steer the punters to Californian wines, Rolf Harris with didgeridoo and wobble-board will market Australian chardonnay, and Boris Christoff, the basso profundissimo, will promote the Bulgarian brand of Bull's Blood with the darkest aria from Boris Godunov.

There is no reason why this subliminal product promotion should stop at wine, even though wine and music are traditional companions. Verdi shall puff pasta. Chopin's Dog Valse, representing George Sand's dog running round and round after its own tail, might do wonders for the pet food shelves. And How Much Is That Doggy In The Window? might do better still. The Anvil Chorus for something in do-it-yourself. The theme of EastEnders for soap powders.

But the proof of the musical bargain will be in the drinking. It may take more than Rule Britannia or The Dream of Gerontius to fill trolleys with English wine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dilemmas faced in party funding

From Mr Stuart Barrow

Sir, As you rightly suggest today in your leading article, "A prize on politics", calls for state-funded political parties are misguided. Countries such as Italy, where public money has been used to fund parties, are not exactly obvious examples of corruption-free political systems.

Indeed, an Italian referendum ditched the funding system in 1993. A subsequent attempt to bring back funding in the form of a voluntary contribution from an individual's taxes to a central fund has so far failed: people simply will not fund a party with which they disagree. Nor should they have to.

One of the systems suggested is based on representation in Parliament: a number of cash for a number of MPs. So Sinn Féin would enjoy my financial support, despite the moral abhorrence in which I hold their links with the Provisional IRA. Equally, if funding is extended to local elections, it is fair that ethnic minorities be forced to pay for the campaigns of the BNP, which has proved itself capable of taking council seats?

Opening up the donations lists is the only answer. So long as donations are declared, I can decide whether businessmen are buying favour for the future, or simply supporting the present policies of that party. I can then vote accordingly.

The electorate has shown itself capable of deciding when sleaze is too much. It should be trusted to do so in future.

Yours faithfully,

STUART BARROW

(Senior Research Economist),

Adam Smith Institute,

23 Great Smith Street, SW1,

November 12.

From Mr Andrew Turner

Sir, The Labour Party's embarrassment over Bernie Ecclestone's £1 million (reports, November 8, 11, 12) is no argument for funding of political parties by the taxpayer. Some donations may, of course, dry up if they are shown not to buy influence. Far more will cease if giving carries with it public imputation of corrupt intent.

The public naming of donors to political parties does not ensure their even-handed treatment by decision-makers. More likely they will bend over backwards to be shown to be fair. The use of a blind trust, ensuring that ministers never know who has supported the cause or why, provides a vehicle for continued giving to support policies with which one agrees — but not to purchase changes which one craves.

A single blind trust, with trustees nominated by all parties, could channel funds to the parties of the donors' choice while protecting party leaders from knowledge which might affect their decisions.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW TURNER,

Isle of Wight Conservative Association,

58 The Mall, Carisbrooke Road,

Newport, Isle of Wight,

November 12.

From Mr John E. Stratford

Sir, Your leading article of November 11, "Party prize", is right to point out that "the difference between £5,000 and £8-10 million is critical". In my evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on the funding of political parties in 1993 I stated that there is clearly a level at which financial support for a political party becomes influential. A limit should be set (say £100,000) and should not be allowed to be exceeded.

To offset the possible loss of income to the parties, tax relief on membership subscriptions should be introduced. Relief set at, say, £30 would encourage members to increase their subscriptions; in the case of the Labour and Conservative Parties each could increase their income by £5 million per annum if their average subscription amounted to the £30 on which relief was given.

A necessary condition would be that the parties were democratically accountable to their members, so that the members could ensure that money raised was properly spent.

A side effect would be that the parties would put more emphasis on increasing their membership. That must be good for democracy.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN E. STRATFORD

(Chairman, Campaign for Conservative Party Democracy),

Perams,

Fulmer Road,

Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,

November 11.

Choc horror

From Dr Oliver Impey

Sir, As it was an Englishman, Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753), who invented and named milk chocolate, surely we should continue to call it that (letters, November 3, 7, 11) (See Arthur MacGregor (ed.), Sir Hans Sloane, Collector, Scientist, Antiquary: Founding Father of the British Museum, British Museum Press, 1994, pp. 15, 16.)

Yours faithfully,

OLIVER IMPEY,

Department of Eastern Art,

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford,

November 11.

Aid as a means to eliminate poverty

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development

Sir, Your leading article of November 6, on the international development White Paper *Eliminating World Poverty*, suggests you have failed to understand that the development agenda has moved on since the old ideologies that took hold in the 1980s.

All serious people agree that the "trickle-down" theory of economic growth did not deliver equitable or sustainable economic growth. Even the International Monetary Fund recognises this: its Managing Director's recent speech in Hong Kong (report, Business, September 22) demonstrated his commitment to "high-quality growth that results in greater equality of economic opportunity". Economic growth that benefits the poor is the only way to achieve long-lasting sustainable growth and to achieve our aims of eradicating poverty.

Your scepticism about achieving the international development targets identified in the White Paper is also misplaced. They come from the great UN conferences of recent years and are considered achievable by the OECD.

You are right to point out that aid alone cannot achieve the development targets. But that is precisely why *Eliminating World Poverty* is not just a "White Paper on aid" as you suggest but embraces all government policies which impact on developing countries, including trade, agriculture and investment. Our aim is to mobilise political will by setting out a clear and achievable strategy.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE FOULKES,

Department for International Development,

94 Victoria Street, SW1,

November 10.

From Mr O. S. Knowles

Sir, Your leading article today quite rightly points out that foreign aid can be only a marginal factor in relieving world poverty, and that raising overall income through rapid growth increases the choices available to everybody.

However, increasing overall income will not increase per capita

incomes if the rate of population growth outstrips the rate of overall income growth.

In the years shortly after independence, Kenya managed to achieve the very respectable rate in overall economic growth of over 7 per cent per annum and received foreign aid of £14 per head per annum, the highest rate in the world. The result was a population explosion with population growth reaching rates that the statisticians had thought impossible. Something similar happened in the Ivory Coast.

World income growth without curbs on population growth will never solve the problem of world poverty.

Yours faithfully,

O. S. KNOWLES

(Acting Permanent Secretary,

Ministry of Finance, Kenya, 1966),

9 Briwell Road, Watlington, Oxford,

November 6.

From Mrs Julia Häusermann

Sir, Your leading article wrongly states that Clare Short "has invented a whole new series of universal 'human rights'".

In fact, the White Paper on development properly reflects the obligations of states, including the UK, under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent international law. The declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, and was given the force of law in two international covenants.

Each of the particular human rights which you refer to as "invented" — on living conditions, social security, conditions of work and family life — are protected by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the UK and a further 135 states are party.

Far from "muddling goals with rights", the Secretary of State has taken a brave step towards the implementation of the UK's international legal obligations. She is to be congratulated. Securing the enjoyment by people living in poverty of their fundamental human rights is essential to the elimination of poverty.

Yours sincerely,

JULIA HAUSERMANN (President),

The International Movement of Rights and Humanity,

65a Swinton Street, WCI,

November 6.

Crime and repentance

From Mr M. E. E. Wood

Sir, I was impressed by a report on BBC2 last Saturday concerning the workings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, highlighting a procedure from which our own justice system might well benefit.

It was a painful and cathartic confrontation between terrorists and a husband whose wife they had ruthlessly gunned down during a church service which got my attention. Repentance was expressed and forgiveness offered in a most moving way.

If a similar procedure was adopted by British courts for certain offences, such as mugging, burglaries and the like, would this not serve to bring home to young criminals in particular the devastating effect of their actions, as well as helping to decrease some of the pressures caused by the overpopulation of our prisons?

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL WOOD

(Director),

ROPE

(Relief for Oppressed People Everywhere),

12 Church Street,

Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,

November 3.

Meningococcal vaccine

From Dr Clive Studd

Sir, The recent tragic deaths of three undergraduates from meningococcal septicaemia (report, November 4, further report, later editions, November 12) highlight the trend of increasing numbers of deaths from this disease.

The Chief Medical Officer, writing to all doctors in CMO's Update 16, talks of raising "awareness of the signs and symptoms of meningococcal infection", although he offers no immediate prospect of a change in Department of Health policy on active immunisation of freshmen.

My experience of such life-threatening cases in adults during the last 10 years as a director of intensive care is that until three years ago these cases were incredibly uncommon. In the last three years the incidence has rocketed and three quarters have been of the group C.

Meningococcal vaccines for group C are readily available and are routinely offered to travellers to certain countries such as Gabon and Senegal. These vaccines offer 90 per cent protection of two to three years.

I suspect the risk of acquiring meningococcal infection in the UK is now not significantly lower than travelling abroad. Therefore could I suggest that in the absence of an appropriate national policy undergraduates request immunisation from their GP, if necessary on the pretext that they have future exotic travel plans.

Yours faithfully,

CLIVE STUDD

(Director of Intensive Care,

Worcester Royal Infirmary),

The Manor House,

Clifton-on-Teme, Worcestershire,

November 7.

Lottery and charity

From the Director of Defeating Deafness

Sir, Miss Claire Ward, MP (letter, November 11), describes as "disingenuous" statements that charities will be deprived of up to £100 million per year if rapid-draw lotteries such as *Pronto* are banned.

I would suggest that it is Miss Ward who is being less than transparent on this issue, given her statement that, whilst *Pronto* will give "only 20 per cent" to charities the National Lottery pays out "twice as much to good causes and in tax". This 40 per cent actually breaks down as follows — 12 per cent to the Government in lottery duty and 28 per cent to the Distribution Fund. Given that the Distribution Fund monies are split equally between five funds — sports, arts, heritage, millennium and the charities board — charities of the sort to be supported by *Pronto* are receiving a mere 5.6p from every £1 National Lottery ticket sold — less than half the duty being collected by government.

Yours faithfully,

VIVIANNE MICHAEL,

Director, Defeating Deafness,

330-332 Gray's Inn Road, WCI,

November 13.

Harrods personnel

From Mr Mark Clements

Sir, I wonder whether either Sir Gordon Downey or members of the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges (report, November 5) saw your report (November 4) relating to racial discrimination at Harrods.

Ian Lamb, chairman of the industrial tribunal hearing the case, commented that: "There was an act of blatant racial discrimination by a very senior personnel officer. There was lying and deceit on the part of Harrods personnel to conceal the act. There was dishonest testimony by Harrods personnel."

Yours faithfully,

MARK CLEMENTS,

The Beutling Mill,

Stormontfield, Perth,

November 5.

One of those jobs

From Mr Ernie Preston

Sir, Yesterday, having intended for some time to get around to doing it one day, I dismantled and removed the blackout blinds from the windows of my house.

Yours faithfully,

E. PRESTON,

21 Park Grove,

Knarsborough, North Yorkshire,

November 11.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Better for the law to keep its wig on?

From His Honour George Dobry, QC

Sir, I spent a memorable day yesterday in Luxembourg watching proceedings in the Court of First Instance and in the Court of Justice — a gratifying experience. Judges of so many nationalities seemed so much like British judges, *avocats* like British barristers, courts like modern British courts. I observed their dress with interest — black gowns, some with gold tassels: in one court there was an English barrister in a wig. It looked unnecessary and incongruous.

In 1946, I exchanged my Polish Air Force uniform for a wig and gown. I did not want to be a lawyer all that much, but the wig and the stage effect of English courts had an irresistible attraction. Recently, I helped to bring over here many Polish lawyers who admire English courts. They are different: I don't think they care about horsehair.

The Lord Chancellor's well balanced view about costume (report and article, November 7) deserves support. It is not trivial. It is about the choice between living in the past and in today's Europe.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE DOBRY (Chairman,

British (Cambridge University)

English Law Centre,

Warsaw University, 1902-96),

4 Brems Building, EC4,

November 7.

From Mr L. L. Blake

Sir, It is typical of new Labour that Lord Irvine of Lairg should wish to exchange the glories of English judicial garb for the undergarments of the Italian judiciary. More ominous, however, is his desire to form a "Justice Department", thus ensuring that English judges, who are now independent, become civil servants like their continental counterparts.

Are we being set up for a total European takeover?

Yours truly,

L. L. BLAKE,

271 Lonsdale Road, SW13,

November 7.

From Mr Denis Young

Sir, In the same way that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done, so should judges not only have authority but also be seen to have it.

Many years ago, when I was a witness in a criminal trial, I thought how upset the defendant might have been if sent down by a judge who, bare-headed, was almost the double of Albert Steptoe. That is why the Lord Chancellor should not be put out by a tradition that, in his opinion, makes judges look "old-fashioned, out of touch and self-satisfied", but should instead, as they say, keep his wig on.

Yours faithfully,

DENIS YOUNG,

4 The Vineyards, Bath,

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL 'PIP' ROBERTS

Major-General G. P. B. ("Pip") Roberts, CB, DSO and two Bars, MC, died on his 91st birthday. He was born on November 5, 1906.

The outstanding British armoured commander of the Second World War, "Pip" Roberts came to prominence in 1942 when his brigade blunted the assault of the German Afrika Korps during Montgomery's battle of Alam Halfa. This put paid to Rommel's last attempt to break through the El Alamein line at the end of August.

Thereafter Roberts commanded armoured formations with outstanding success during the remainder of the North African campaign, and from Normandy to the Baltic in Northwest Europe. The nickname "Pip" could not have been more appropriate. A small, alert and dynamic leader with a light touch and a sense of humour, he was universally popular in the Army. His extraordinary battle sense and tactical flair for armoured warfare enabled him to inspire battle-winning confidence in his men, and the trust of his superiors. Moreover, he was one of the bravest of men, who must have survived more shot and shell than almost any other commander. Three DSOs and an MC are not lightly won.

Educated at Marlborough and Sandhurst, George Philip Bradley Roberts was commissioned into the Royal Tank Corps in 1926. By 1933, he was adjutant of the 6th Royal Tank Regiment in Egypt.

He was DAQM of Armoured Division when the Italians invaded Egypt in 1940, brigade major of the 4th Armoured Brigade during O'Connor's victorious campaign, which destroyed the Italian 10th Army in the winter of 1940-41; GS2 of 7th Armoured Division during Brevity and Battleaxe, Wavell's two abortive attempts to relieve Tobruk in the summer of 1941; and AQMG of 30th Corps during the Crusader offensive. Auchinleck's pyrrhic victory over Rommel that autumn.

He was given command of

the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in January 1942, and his first tank battle came at the end of May, in the opening phase of the Battle of Gazala, when Rommel drove round the desert flank of the Eighth Army and tried to destroy it from the rear. Roberts's regiment, with two squadrons of American Grant tanks and one of light American "Honeys", was part of 4th Armoured Brigade, which attempted to stop the first onrush of the Afrika Korps. Although he handled his regiment skilfully, the tank losses were heavy. Next day an 88mm anti-tank round passed right through his tank but he survived. Ten days later, in the fighting around the "cauldron", he was badly wounded when he had a second tank shot from under him.

Fit again by the end of July, he was given command of 22nd Armoured Brigade deployed on the vital Alam Halfa Ridge in the rear of the El Alamein Line. Montgomery arrived soon afterwards and decided that if Rommel tried to go round the southern flank again, he would be trapped in a cauldron of Montgomery's own making below Alam Halfa. Rommel did make the attempt on August 31. His Afrika Korps ran into Roberts's brigade in well-chosen hull-down positions on the western end of the ridge. It was a close-run thing, but Roberts's brigade inflicted enough damage on the German tanks to force the Afrika Korps to recoil. Three days later Rommel gave up his last attempt to reach the Suez Canal.

Alan, Halfa brought Roberts to the notice of Montgomery, and forged a long-lasting link between Roberts and General Sir Brian Horrocks, his corps commander. In the Battle of El Alamein at the end of October, Roberts's brigade played a prominent part in breaching the minefields in the southern sector of the front and in the final breakout phase as part of 7th Armoured Division, then commanded by John Harding (later Field Marshal Lord Harding), with whom he also established a close rapport.

In the subsequent pursuit of Rommel's defeated Panzer



"Pip" Roberts, left, with Major-General Sir Allan Adair, Bt, outside the Imperial War Museum in 1984, at a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Belgium

Army, 22nd Armoured Brigade operated under Montgomery's command. And when John Harding was wounded near Tarruna, Montgomery sent Roberts to take over 7th Armoured Division, which he commanded temporarily until it entered Tripoli in January 1943.

Meanwhile, 1st Army was in difficulties in French North Africa and needed experienced tank commanders. Roberts was released by Montgomery to command 26th Armoured Brigade in 6th Armoured Division on the Tunisian front.

With them he broke through the Fondouk Pass in April, and led the decisive thrust for Tunis in May, giving the coup de grace at Hammam Lif. Battle-hardened, Roberts was then sent back to England to help to prepare for the invasion of Europe. Recommended by Montgomery for the command of an armoured division, he had to mark time commanding 30th Armoured Brigade for a few months until 11th Armoured Division, earmarked for Normandy, became available for him in November 1943. He had risen

from captain to major-general in three years, and took over his division at just 37.

Under his command, 11th Armoured Division became the most trusted and thrusting of Montgomery's three armoured divisions in Northwest Europe, playing a successful part in all of the major tank battles in the beachhead: firm Epsom, then Goodwood and finally Bluecoat.

After the crossing of the Seine, Roberts led Montgomery's advance across northern France, surprising and capturing not only the German

garrison of Amiens with a rapid night march, but also General Eberbach, who had just taken over command of the German 7th Army. He went on to take Antwerp at the beginning of September.

During the fighting in Normandy and the pursuit across France, Roberts was largely responsible for the development of the mixed brigade concept adopted by the armoured divisions. For the open desert their brigades had been predominantly armoured or infantry; in close European country, tanks needed far more infantry support so Roberts developed the more flexible organisation, in which the mix of armour and infantry could be tactically varied.

The armoured divisions were at a grave disadvantage in winter, fighting in the Rhineland. However, as soon as the Rhine was crossed in March, Roberts's division was in the lead once more, fighting its way across Germany to Lubeck on the Baltic coast, liberating the concentration camp victims at Belsen on the way. He always contended that, had Eisenhower not forbidden it, he could have crossed the Elbe and been in Berlin before the Russians.

Instead, he had a final task of issuing orders to Grand Admiral Doenitz, Hitler's reluctant successor, and Field Marshal Keitel, head of OKW, at Flensburg on the Danish frontier.

He was appointed Director of the Royal Armoured Corps in the War Office in 1948. He decided, however, that on his army salary he could not educate his children, and in 1949 he joined Huntley & Palmers, the biscuit manufacturers. When he retired from business, he settled in Majorca until his wife Desirée, whom he had married in 1936, died in 1979. His second wife, whom he married in 1980, was Anne Cornelia, the widow of Brigadier J. K. Greenwood, a former colleague of his in the Royal Tank Regiment. She survives him, with two sons and two daughters of his first marriage.

His book, *From the Desert to the Baltic*, provides a good light account of all his battles.

SIR LINCOLN HALLINAN

Sir Lincoln Hallinan, Stipendiary Magistrate and former Lord Mayor of Cardiff, died on November 2 aged 74. He was born on November 13, 1922.

LINCOLN HALLINAN was a powerful presence in the professional and public life of Cardiff for nearly half a century. Professionally, he was a stylish advocate, who became a Crown Court recorder and later the Welsh capital's stipendiary magistrate. But he also maintained a high profile by his activities outside court — in local government and such areas as the arts and conservation.

He was three times a Conservative candidate for Parliament, twice fighting George Thomas in Cardiff West. It is said that the future Lord Tonypan never forgave him. Having lost, Hallinan then settled down to local government. Elected to Cardiff City Council at 27 — his youngest member at the time — he remained on it for 25 years. He chaired its education committee for eight of them, throughout the turbulent period of change to comprehensive schools.

Then he crowned his local government career by becoming Lord Mayor in 1969, the year of the Prince of Wales's investiture. An oil painting of Hallinan and the Prince hangs in Cardiff's City Hall.

He played a leading role in developing the Welsh College of Music and Drama, and was chairman of the Cardiff College of Art. He helped to found Cardiff's Civic Trust, and a South Wales branch of the Victorian Society, winning the support of John Bejerman in his battles to conserve the city's Victorian heritage. Yet for all his public celebrity, what few people knew about him was that his initial intention had been to become a monk.

Adrian Lincoln Hallinan was the son of Sir Charles Hallinan, a prosperous Cardiff solicitor whose family had migrated from Ireland during the potato famine. "Charlie" Hallinan, who was himself to become Lord Mayor, had wanted to call his son Abraham Lincoln. But his wife flatly refused, eventually agreeing to compromise on the "Lincoln".

He went to Downside, reflecting the family's (and especially his mother's) Roman Catholicism, and then entered a monastery as a novice. As his brother was a monk, his uncle an abbot and two of his aunts were nuns, the decision was not altogether surprising.

After 18 months, however, he left to fight in the Second World War. He was commissioned into the Rifle Brigade in 1942 but, to his intense disappointment, was kept in this

country because of his susceptibility to asthma. He was posted to Germany and Jersey only when the war was over.

He remained in the Army until 1947, getting leave of absence to fight a by-election at Aberdare in 1946 — but, unlike Michael Heseltine at Gower in the 1959 general election, was briefly recalled to the colours once the contest was over. Demobbed in 1947, he returned to his monastery, but stayed only six months, becoming convinced that contemplative life was not for him.

Instead, he read for the Bar, before being called in 1950 — appropriately enough by Lincoln's Inn. He then practised at the Criminal Bar on the Wales and Chester Circuit, displaying a talent for winning over juries by his eloquence. He was made a recorder in 1972 and stipendiary magistrate for Cardiff five years later.

Elected to the city council in 1949, he was an alderman at 30 and remained on the council until the 1974 local government changes. He wrote a furious letter to *The Times* denouncing these changes, which had left Wales's capital with only a district council.

He was made a Deputy Lieutenant for Glamorgan in 1969, and his other honours included that of a Chevalier of the French Légion d'honneur — reflecting Cardiff's "winning" with Nantes.

A flamboyant performer in court and the council chamber, Lincoln Hallinan virtually invited controversy at times, once antagonising striking teachers by declaring: "We are masters, and they are servants." His outspokenness and caprices on the bench could also sometimes land him in hot water. A woman defendant once threw a shoe at him. "Not a very good shot is she?" he drily commented in a stage whisper to the clerk.

He had his full quota of enemies and detractors. His 1971 knighthood, it was said, came a year later than it should have done because the former Welsh Secretary, George Thomas, not one to forget an old foe, had blocked it. But Hallinan never lost his sense of humour and enjoyed the great gift of laughing at himself. Politically, he was a very liberal, non-doctrinaire Tory.

He collected commemorative artefacts, publishing a study on *British Commemoratives* last year. He was also an authority on antiques.

He married his wife Mary in 1953. A fellow barrister, she had joined his Cardiff chambers, despite strong opposition from the young Hallinan who was then unimpressed by female advocates. He is survived by her and by their two sons and two daughters.



PETER BALL

Peter Ball, northern football correspondent of *The Times*, died from leukaemia on November 11 aged 54. He was born on April 13, 1943.

MANY sportswriters excel at live reporting of events, colourful features or trenchant opinion pieces. Although Peter Ball was sufficiently versatile to be able to carry out these tasks of daily journalism with consistent competence, particularly in football and cricket, his rare talent was in coaxing information out of players and managers to illuminate how they did their jobs. He had the gift of even making the mundane seem interesting.

His book *Only a Game*, the diary of a season with Millwall in the 1970s through the eyes of Eamonn Dunphy, the Republic of Ireland international, was exceptional. It became the standard by which similar books were judged, and was succeeded in acclaim only with the publication of *Fewer Flies* by Nick Hornby more than a decade later.

Hornby's original work consisted of his own memories as a supporter, whereas Ball had to convey the thoughts and feelings of a player.

He was much respected among journalists for his analysis of games, but he never allowed his fondness for Manchester United and Lancashire County Cricket Club to influence his reporting. Although modest and self-effacing, he expressed strong opinions both vocally and in print, but not with any boisterous assertion.

Brought up by his mother and aunt in Key and Essex, he was educated at Sutton Valence School. In 1965, he went to Sussex University, then enjoying a fashionable popularity with the young, to read history. Ball flourished in the open atmosphere of a new and stridently educational university. He drove a battered Mini, the first of a series of much-loved cars, ate and drank expansively with the Hedonists, the students' dining club, and represented the university at cricket, successfully bowling off spinners. He was later a member of the MCC, qualifying by playing.

After a stint as a supply teacher, assisting at the Bethlem and Maudsley Hospitals, he won a history scholarship to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he took an MA. He returned to his teaching posts in London in 1971 before persuading *Time Out*, then in its first flush of success, to run a regular sports section. He became its first sports editor.

Only a Game was published in 1978 and immediately gave him a new status in sportswriting. Although he tried radio broadcasting, he never felt at content behind the microphone as behind a typewriter. He began reporting for *The Times* in the mid-1980s. After a spell as football correspondent of the London *Daily News*, the short-lived 24-hour newspaper, he returned

to *The Times* and was taken on the staff in 1992. He subsequently covered football across the North of England, and reported both the 1994 World Cup and 1996 European championship. He also frequently accompanied the Republic of Ireland team abroad during their heyday under the management of Jackie Charlton.

For the last 15 years, he was much in demand as an author. He wrote books on football with figures such as Alex Ferguson, Jackie Charlton, Tony Woodcock and Peter Reid. On each occasion, he used his skill at listening and then conveying the meaning exactly to readers. His book with the England cricketer Graeme Fowler, entitled *For the Love of the Game*, was the Channel 4 Sports Book of the Year.

Ball was entranced by the idiosyncrasies of sport, and edited five editions of *The Book of Football Quotations* (with Phil Shaw) and *The Book of Cricket Quotations* (with David Hopps). Since 1985 his Sports Quotations of the Year in *The Times* have been an entertaining feature of the Christmas season.

Like many journalists, he needed an impending deadline to produce his work. Always eager to write, he found his illness this year increasingly frustrating. He was looking forward to returning to the world that he so enjoyed, although when he finally realised that this was impossible, he accepted it with fortitude.

His marriage to Sarah was dissolved four years ago. He leaves three sons.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

NOBEL PRIZE AWARDS

LITERATURE, PHYSICS, AND CHEMISTRY

BERLIN, NOV. 12

A Stockholm message announces that Herr Thomas Mann has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. He is the fifth German to receive the Prize, the others being Theodor Mommsen (1902), Rudolf Eucken (1908), Karl Heyse (1910), and Gerhart Hauptmann (1912).

Herr Thomas Mann, who is himself a *Literatur*, is possibly best known through the "Buddenbrooks", a story of the rise and fall of a Hanseatic trading dynasty. At the time when he wrote "Buddenbrooks" he was much under the influence of the Scandinavian novelists, living as he did in a German Free City which has the closest of associations with Scandinavia, and this has given him a particular pleasure in the award of the Prize. Other well-known novels of his are "Der kleine Herr Friedemann" and "Tristan." He is at present engaged on a two-volume novel, "Joseph and his Brothers." This is for Herr Mann entirely new ground.

STOCKHOLM, Nov 12 — The Nobel Prize for Physics for 1928 has been awarded to Professor Owen Williams Richardson, Yarrow Research Professor of the Royal Society and Director of Research in Physics at King's College London.

The Nobel Prize for Physics for 1929 has been awarded to the Duc de Broglie. The award to the Duc de Broglie is made on account of his discovery of the undulating nature of electrons.

The 1928 prize is awarded by the Academy of Science to Professor Richardson for his discovery of the fundamental physical law known as the "Richardson law," which governs the motion of electrons emanating from hot bodies. This formula constitutes the basis of the action of the vacuum valve, on which wireless telephony and broadcasting depend. — Reuter.

ON THIS DAY

November 13, 1929

The awarding of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Thomas Mann (1875-1955) was regarded by many as an acknowledgement of his position as perhaps the greatest novelist in Europe.

Professor Owen Williams Richardson, Yarrow Research Professor of the Royal Society and Director of Research in Physics at King's College London.

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CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP OF WORLD

FROM OUR CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Dr A. Alekhine retains the Chess Championship of the World, his match with E.D. Bogoljubov having been finished at Wiesbaden yesterday, when the 25th game was drawn.

The first arrangements for the match were that 30 games were to be played, but yesterday's message stated that the match is now finished, Alekhine having won 11 games to the five of Bogoljubov, with nine games drawn. With only five games to be played out of the original 30, Bogoljubov had no chance of even equalising, and so one of the most curious matches in the history of world chess championships has come to an end.

That Alekhine would win was a foregone conclusion, judging by all one knew of the form of both players, but Bogoljubov has the satisfaction of knowing he has inflicted more defeats on Alekhine than the latter has ever suffered in any previous match. The games themselves have been a curious mixture of good and bad play, the latter predominating in the earlier stages of the match.

NEWS

Ecclestone offered second big gift

Bernie Ecclestone was proposing a second big donation to the Labour Party on top of the £1 million he gave in January. Neither Tony Blair nor other Labour leaders have made any public mention of a second gift during the turmoil of the past few days — although the party raised it with the standards watchdog Sir Patrick Neill last week. Last night's disclosure of this second offer from the Formula One motor racing supremo is certain to fuel Tory allegations of a cover-up. Page 1

Biggs stays in Brazil

Ronnie Biggs, 68, the Great Train Robber, will see out his days in the safety and warmth of Rio de Janeiro. The Brazilian Supreme Court rejected Britain's application to bring him back to finish his 30-year prison sentence despite a new extradition treaty. The Home Office said it would not try again. Page 1

Thousands tagged

The Home Secretary and the Lord Chief Justice read the last rites over the Conservative policy of "prison works". Three thousand inmates will be freed early on electronic tags. Page 1

IRA infighting

New evidence of IRA infighting emerged when dissidents claimed the bulk of a top IRA "battalion" had resigned and joined those challenging the peace strategy of Gerry Adams. Page 2

Top preacher

The Rev Paul Walker, who admits he tried sex, drugs and Buddhism before opting for the Church of England, won the Preacher of the Year Award. His subject was holiness. Page 3

Out to lunch

Meals on Wheels delivered lunch to Clarence House but the Queen Mother declined because she had an engagement with the Canadian High Commissioner. Page 7

Council pensions

Pension funds for millions of local authority workers are in crisis because so many have taken advantage of early retirement packages. Pages 8, 21

Judge jailed

A former county court judge was jailed for 28 days after admitting his third drink-driving offence in 12 years. He had already resigned from the bench. Page 10

Shoppers under the influence of music

A jaunty accordion tune inspires supermarket shoppers to buy French wine, while bierkeller music has them reaching for German wine. Psychologists at Leicester University installed a tape deck on the top shelf of a display of wine in the Asda store in Oadby, Leicestershire, and found that musical "fit" has a profound effect on product choice. Pages 11, 21

Golden Devon

Britain's largest gold strike has been made by Minmet, an Irish-based company, near Crediton in Devon. But the goldfield named Watford Gap has so far yielded only small deposits. Page 11

Mercedes disaster

Safety doubts over the stability of the new Mercedes "baby" A-class model have stopped assembly lines and caused a multi-million pound public relations disaster. Page 13

Iraq travel ban

The United Nations Security Council agreed to a symbolic tightening of sanctions on Iraq by imposing a travel ban on Iraqi officials who seldom leave the country. Page 14, 21

Karachi shootings

Four Americans and a Pakistani were shot dead in the centre of Karachi, probably by Islamic extremists in an apparent reprisal. Page 15

On the gravy train

Members of the European Parliament are enriching themselves with padded expenses, according to an investigation by German television. Page 16

Arafat's illness

Yasser Arafat, the veteran Palestinian leader, has an unnamed degenerative disease and manoeuvres to succeed him have begun. Page 17



Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, receiving a world citizenship award from Girl Guides in London

BUSINESS

Barclays: The clearing bank sold the equity and advisory business of BZW for £100 million to Credit Suisse First Boston, the Swiss-owned merchant bank. Page 25

Nursing homes: Care First, the nursing home company beset by boardroom disputes, is hoping to defeat a £241 million takeover bid from Bupa, the health insurance and hospitals group. Page 25

Economy: The American Federal Open Market Committee decided to leave US interest rates on hold for another month. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 73.3 points to close at 4720.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 103.8 to 104.4 after a rise from \$1.7042 to \$1.7058 and from DM2.9169 to DM2.9399. Page 28

SPORT

Tennis: Greg Rusedski lost 6-4, 7-5 to the world No 1 Pete Sampras in the ATP world championship in Hannover. It was his second defeat in the group matches. Page 48

Football: Ian Wright's failure to score in the past four Premiership games has prompted lengthy analysis during England's preparations for their match against Cameroon. Page 44

Rugby union: Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, will miss the opening international match of their tour against Ireland because of a knee injury. Page 42

Boxing: A small show at York Hall, Bethnal Green, was probably the last promotion of Mickey Duff's 47-year career, though he remains in the sport as a manager. Page 46

James' navy: After a string of flops Demi Moore erupts back into the spotlight in the best of the week's new movies, Ridley Scott's grueling, unreal *G.I. Jane*. Page 34

Round Robbins: After his Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking*, Tim Robbins directed and starred in a comedy thriller, *Nothing to Lose*. Then he collapsed. Page 35

Belfast boom: After 35 years of worthy cultural effort in a troubled Province, the annual Belfast Festival has suddenly been given international clout. Page 36

Sawd of Avoat: Australian cult show *The Popular Mechanicals* has brought its brand of Shakespearean silliness to London in a show that drags the Bard resolutely downmarket. Page 37

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

MEDIA
Carol Midgley finds out why people submit to fly-on-the-wall documentaries

EDUCATION
The schools' big match with professional clubs over where pupil loyalties lie

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Child-battering, whooping cough in children aged under two, angina, hormone treatment to reduce heart disease risk, and herpes. Page 18

Hothouses: Its reputation as a hot-house for fashion talent is unrivalled. But something disturbing is happening at the fashion faculty of Central St Martins College of Art and Design. Page 19

Best buys: Riding through the Mountains of Mourne at new year, see Santa in Lapland; Australia for about £300 return. Page 40

Indian attraction: The India of Lawrence James entrances Jan Morris; Dr Thomas Stuttaford on physicians; R. W. Johnson enjoys a Mandela biography. Pages 38, 39

THE PRESIDENT

The President of the most powerful country in the world has lost the right to negotiate international commercial agreements. This time the resistance has come from Bill Clinton's own party, the Democrats. If he fails to renege the political initiative this loss will effectively bring his second term to a dead end. — El Pais

3, 45, 36, 6, 27, 3. Bonus: 47. The estimated jackpot was £14,900,000.

TELEVISION

Preview: Meet the women at the sharp end of the travel business. *Holiday Reps* (BBC1, 8.30pm). Review: Joe Joseph on private school admissions. Pages 46, 47

OPINION

Target Iraq's arsenal

Saddam can be left with only two choices: to co-operate with the UN in the destruction of his illegal weapons capability, or see it disabled by other means. Page 21

Local scandal

Early retirement should be a last, not a first, resort. If council workers find their jobs stressful, they should be given less stressful work, not put out to grass. Page 21

Musical wine bars

The proof of the musical bargain will be in the drinking. It may take more than *Rule Britannia* or *The Dream of Gerontius* to fill trolleys with English wine. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

If the CBI speeches on the single currency were put before academic examiners, Tony Blair's would get an athlete's third. Page 20

VERNON BOGDANOR

With public funding of political parties, the general interest would be strengthened. Page 20

MAGNUS LINKATER

Museums are cultural assets, not grocer's shops. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Does Tony Blair want the Lib Dems as independent partners in multi-party politics or does he want to subsume them in an all-embracing new Labour hegemony? That will determine the choice of electoral systems. Page 12

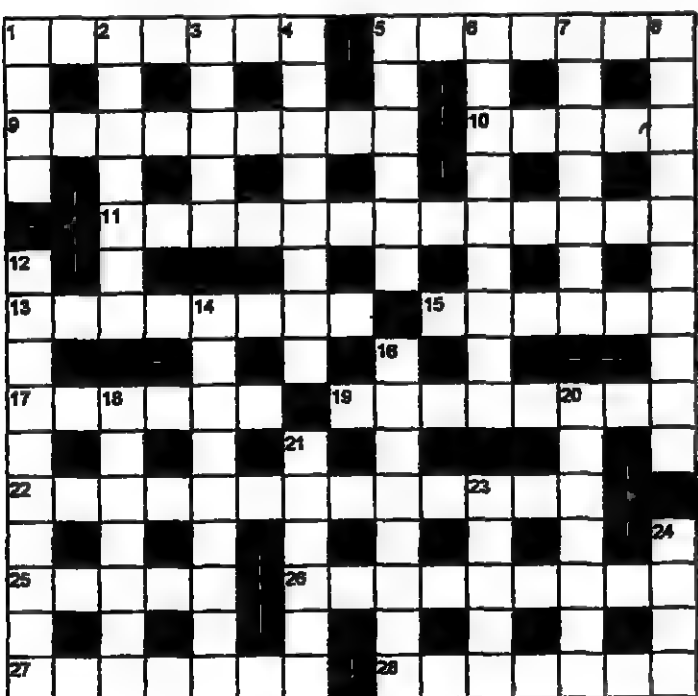
JOHN BRYANT

If you are fit enough and determined enough you can run through deserts, up mountains and across continents. But you can hardly move at all if you are hobbled with red tape. Page 45

Major-General "Pip" Roberts, wartime armoured commander, Sir Lincoln Hallinan, former Lord Mayor of Cardiff; Peter Ball, Times football writer. Page 23

Party funding: eliminating poverty, judicial garb. Page 27

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,636



- ACROSS**
- Seating accommodation for members (7).
 - Immobile car first, having no front light (3,4).
 - Trick meaning almost out of order, in the majority view (9).
 - Record performance, showing difference between years (5).
 - Crew fight ban I contrived, following instructions to lawyer (8,5).
 - Is Tom's mate allowed a choice of girls for celebration? (3,5).
 - Attack a provocative performance (4,2).
 - Abused plain English at European summit (6).
 - More of a drag? (4,4).
 - Calculation of numbers in tight infantry, perhaps (5,8).
- DOWN**
- Lay speed (4).
 - Crew said to assess means to get on ship (7).
 - Sketch of ball on green in Open (5).
 - Nearly overlook main source of trouble (8).
 - As worker nursing disease might be? (6).
 - Section of richer bourgeoisie in French town (9).
 - Such entertaining nights, following M1? (7).
 - Scout, of course, made new friend (10).
 - Maybe he goes into capitals as an overseas rep (10).
 - Deviating from annual revelling, if routine's held up (9).
 - Making sure one's watch keeps going (8).
 - Stick out long-term study (7).
 - Works in pubs — a way to be accepted (7).
 - Money blackguard raised for pompous dictator (3,3).
 - Film company, perhaps, using latest device for cutting (5).
 - To tax the population, taking local contributions? Neat (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,635

LOCALDERBY CHOP
PRESBYTERIAN FAIR
WEWOTITAP
BRINKMANSHIP
NANNYGOAT TENOR
GHEUERDAS
ROMEO FORTUNOUS
EORFME
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IEFVND
EATS SUBTLYWISE
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Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 1997

Fed decides against a rise Bank may lift rates further

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE US Federal Reserve offered the world's battered stock markets a degree of comfort last night by deciding against a rise in American interest rates.

The news was widely expected. Despite some arguments for a rate rise on domestic economic grounds, the Fed has clearly decided that the timing was not auspicious.

The Fed did not want to exacerbate the continuing market crisis, which began in the Far East but has spread alarmingly around the world in recent weeks. The news initially appeared to leave Wall

Street cold. In the minutes after the announcement, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped from a loss of around 40 points to a loss of 78 points.

Another slump in the Far East overnight had rattled stock markets around the world in the run-up to the Fed announcement. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell nearly 4 per cent and Tokyo's Nikkei lost nearly 3 per cent of its value to close at its lowest level for more than two years.

In London, the FTSE 100 index sank to its lowest level for four

months, largely because of the heavy selling in the Far East. It closed with a loss of 1.5 per cent, down 73.3 points at 4,720.4.

Increasing concerns about the fragility of the Japanese economy, already weak but now further threatened by falling growth prospects in its key East Asian markets, have punished the yen. In contrast, the pound has been surging in response to strong economic growth and higher interest rates. Yesterday, sterling hit its highest level against the Japanese currency since September, 1992.

THE Bank of England yesterday left the door open for further interest rate rises to slow the pace of economic growth and be sure of hitting the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

Introducing the latest *Inflation Report*, Mervyn King, Director of Economics, said that the risks of missing the target had lessened because of last week's 0.25 per cent rise in base rates to 7.25 per cent. However, he added that the "risks were on the upside".

In August, when the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee last raised

rates, it said that there would be a pause in the process of monetary tightening. Yesterday Mr King said: "We are not in a pause. The position that the committee took in August should be seen as an exception rather than the rule."

The Bank said that economic growth is running "well above any sustainable trend" and that there would have to be a period of below-trend growth to hit the inflation target. For the first time the Bank made a forecast for economic growth. It estimated that growth would peak at around 4 per cent at

the end of this year and then fall sharply next year — although not to the point of recession.

Financial markets were cheered by news of a relatively modest decline in unemployment in October and, crucially, by a fall in average earnings growth in September. Both suggest that the economy may be starting to slow.

But Mr King said that if the slowdown does not start soon, inflationary pressures will build up and further action will be needed.

Signs of slowing, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4720.4	(-1.5%)
Nikkei	15341.17	(-1.3%)
Dow Jones	7538.87	(-1.8%)
S&P Composite	823.55	(-0.22%)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	7.25%	(unch)
Long Bond	5.91%	(unch)
Yield	6.16%	(unch)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	7.4%	(7.4%)
Life long gilt	11.6%	(11.7%)
Future (Dec)	11.6%	(11.7%)

STERLING		
New York	1.7040	(1.7038)
London	1.7038	(1.7038)
DM	2.9411	(2.9410)
FF	8.5500	(8.5479)
SP	2.3894	(2.3752)
Yen	154.77	(154.18)
S Index	104.4	(103.8)

US DOLLAR		
London	1.7288	(1.7095)
FF	8.7788	(8.7335)
SP	2.4000	(2.3615)
Yen	155.19	(154.90)
S Index	105.5	(105.1)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$19.50	(\$19.50)

GOLD		
London close	\$308.45	(\$311.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Global alliance still on agenda at C&W

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

DICK BROWN, chief executive of Cable and Wireless, the telecommunications group, has said that the company is still looking at the possibility of a global alliance that could yet include BT and Concert, its international joint venture.

Announcing a 52 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £1.1 billion for the six months to September 30, Mr Brown emphasised that he is not involved in active talks on global link-ups, despite the turmoil in telecom markets. He said: "We don't want to talk about changing cloud patterns right now. We want to make Cable and Wireless work better."

Mr Brown announced that C&W plans to raise £1 billion over the next 12 months selling the minority stakes it holds in numerous telecom businesses around the world. He declined to say which would be sold, other than to suggest that minority stakes in some African and South American companies would be included.

The £1 billion target did not include funds that could be raised through a further reduction of C&W's 54 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom. Mr Brown said he would consider reducing this interest to less than 50 per cent, but only if the equivalent value or better came from deals in China, he added.

"There is no gun to our head from the Chinese. If we don't think it is in our interests we don't have to do it," said Mr Brown.

The profit figure was influenced by the main exceptional item in the half year — a £519 million gain on the sale of 5.4 per cent of Hongkong Telecom, although this was partly offset by a £200 million charge for the restructuring of Cable & Wireless Communications in the UK.

Pre-tax profit before exceptional items rose 9 per cent to £797 million (14 per cent at constant exchange rates). Earnings per share before exceptional items was 17.1p, up 6 per cent, and the dividend of 3.75p is up 10 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

BZW equities and advisory business sold for £100m

RICHARD MILES
BANKING
CORRESPONDENT

CREDIT Suisse First Boston yesterday bought the equities and advisory business of BZW for £100 million — a price equal to two thirds of the operation's capital value and half its annual revenues.

Barclays said it had agreed with CSFB to transfer £150 million of BZW net assets and 900 employees, including 200 key executives who have signed contracts locking themselves in for three years.

The Swiss-owned investment bank is spending a further £50 million on these and other staff inducements as well as taking a £100 million restructuring charge. But Barclays will foot the bill for bonus payments, due in February. After cost savings, the deal will cost CSFB an estimated £175 million.

Stephen Hester, chief financial officer of CSFB, admitted the £100 million price looked low compared with recent City speculation. "A more relevant comparison is that the figure is just half of BZW's revenues for the year. When Travelers bought Salomon's, it paid two-and-a-half times the value of the revenues," he said.

Mr Hester said that none of the chief individuals at BZW's equities and advisory business had turned down CSFB's offer, and only five people in total had rejected the deal.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said he was not disappointed at the result, describing the sale as "a fair price to both parties". He argued that the business sold:



Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, left, and Martin Taylor, chief executive, agreed with CSFB to transfer £150 million of BZW net assets

to CSFB accounted for only half BZW's total business, and the Asian and Australasian operations remained on sale.

He added: "In financial terms, this has been an almost trivial deal for Barclays." The entire BZW business accounts for just 5 per cent of the group's revenues. However, the sale is likely to show up as a loss when recorded in the 1997 accounts.

BZW employees were less enthralled with the terms of the deal. One director said: "If you want to be very sensitive,

this deal means the people are valued at minus £50 million. That's not very flattering."

City analysts were nearly unanimous in their verdict that CSFB had gained a bargain. One said: "They have got this on the cheap: we reckoned about £200 million for this 50 per cent of the business. But now that Barclays is relatively clean, there are no excuses for Martin Taylor. He has to come up with a forward strategy."

The fate of nearly 2,000 BZW back-office staff has yet

to be decided. Meanwhile, Barclays will provide support services to CSFB for an unspecified fee. Many of these employees will eventually find fresh posts within one of the two banks, although there will be some job losses.

CSFB is also taking a small part of BZW's equities derivatives business. However, the rump, including £110 million of capital, will be subsumed within Barclays Capital, the bank's fixed income operation.

Commentary, page 27

Care First rejects bid by Bupa

BY PAUL DURMAN

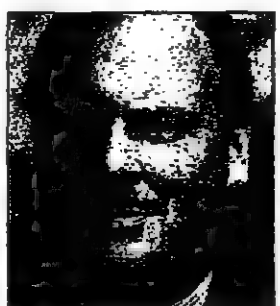
CARE FIRST, the nursing home company recently troubled by boardroom disputes, is hoping that a revival in its profits and the interest of other potential bidders will defeat a £241 million takeover bid from Bupa, the health insurance and hospitals group.

Care First, formed from last year's merger of Takara and Court Cavendish, said it had already received expressions of interest from other parties. It believes that increased government funding and rising occupancy of its newly completed homes justify an offer nearer 200p a share, rather than the 150p that Bupa is offering.

Keith Bradshaw, the chairman, who was recently forced to relinquish executive duties in Care First, said: "I am going to do a damn good job to demonstrate the value that exists in this company." The maturing

of the new homes — accounting for 1,700 of its 12,500 beds — would have a "dramatic effect" on results, he said.

However, Peter Jacobs, Bupa chief executive, said that his offer had taken into ac-



Michael Clark, left, stock market correspondent of The Times, has been presented with the stock market writer of the year award. The Inciscape Falshaw award, in memory of the late Tony Falshaw, of the Daily Mail, is judged by City stockbrokers and fund managers. It was presented by Philip Cushing, chief executive of Latchape.

Bupa's offer is 49 per cent higher than the price of Care First shares before it approached the company a month ago. It is about 17 times forecasts of 1998 earnings.

Bupa expansion, page 29

Etam agrees to £88m French takeover

BY FRASER NELSON

ETAM, the troubled women's wear chain, has agreed to an £88.8 million cash takeover from its French namesake in a move that heralds a relaunch of its 215 high street stores.

Etam Développement, a separate company which floated in Paris three months ago, has tabled an ambitious recovery plan for the UK chain by investing heavily in more fashionable clothes ranges.

It has defeated a rival takeover attempt from New Look, the UK

fashion chain that had been hoping to agree a reverse takeover and deploy a heavy cost-cutting programme to return the company to the black.

Etam's UK shops will come under the joint control of Jacques Levy, widely credited with turning around Etam France, and Nick Hollingworth, Etam's chief executive.

City analysts suspected that Mr Hollingworth will play second fiddle to M. Levy. Richard Ratner, from Butterfield Securities, said: "M. Levy is a marketing whizz-kid and, if he's going to be head of UK operations, it's hard

to see what's going to be left for Mr Hollingworth."

Etam received the cash offer last weekend at a 15 per cent premium to its then share price of 118p. Etam shares, which have plunged from 205p to 120p since last year, rose to 133p yesterday — just below the 135p cash offer. Etam Développement is offering an all-shares alternative by trading 27 of its shares for every Etam share — which it says would be valued at 145p a share.

However, until its shares return from suspension, the value of the paper

option will remain obscured. The deal was given a mixed reception in Paris yesterday, as analysts pointed out that Etam Développement will be lumbered with the UK chain's 28 million debt. However, the French company had aimed at generating 30 per cent of its sales from the UK within five years. The deal will lift this from 15 per cent to 40 per cent in one stroke.

Etam France was set up by Max Lindemann in 1928, who had founded Etam UK five years earlier. The two companies said they had been in on-off takeover talks for the past three years.

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Job market recovery shows signs of slowing

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S labour market recovery showed signs of slowing yesterday, with unemployment registering its smallest drop for 18 months and average earnings growth falling back. Unemployment among women actually rose in October, with the number out of work and claiming benefit increasing in all but one of the regions of the UK.

Average earnings growth fell back slightly, by a quarter of a point, to

4.25 per cent. While Whitehall said there were no special reasons behind the fall, the fact that it was driven by manufacturing may reflect the impact of the strength of the pound. With the smaller fall in unemployment, some City analysts saw it as a signal of some slowing in the economy.

Whitehall officials suggested that the overall fall in seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment of 9,500, which was much lower than in previous recent months, may well have been a seasonal effect to do with

students. Government economists said the labour market continued to show strong improvement, with Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, saying he was delighted to see the combination of falling unemployment and stable earnings growth continuing. Mr Smith will launch the Government's pilot for its Welfare to Work programme today.

But John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said: "These figures are disappointing and indicate that labour market recovery is slowing. With earnings growth also slowing, it is

clear the recent rise in interest rates was premature." The fall was the smallest since April last year, when it dropped by 4,300. Since then, the monthly claimant count has seen some huge drops — notably a 95,400 decline a year ago — with the introduction of the Conservative Government's jobseeker's allowance to replace unemployment benefit.

The 9,500 fall compares with declines of 21,600 and 49,800 in the previous months. Officials from the Government's Office for National Statistics said they still estimated the

current average monthly rate of fall at 15,000 to 35,000.

Male unemployment fell 13,900, but unemployment among women rose 4,400 overall. Regionally, every area except London saw an increase in female unemployment.

The Government was challenged over the figures by the Liberal Democrats, who accused ministers of failing to improve the basis of the unemployment data, despite pledging to do so when in opposition. Paul Keetch, employment spokesman, said it was a "sorry state of affairs".

Partners to pay price at merging accountants

By Robert Bruce

PARTNERS of Ernst & Young, which proposes to merge with KPMG to form the UK's largest accountancy firm, achieved a 30 per cent rise in average earnings to £259,000 last year.

But Nick Land, senior partner, who was paid a total of £515,902, gave warning that future earnings will be adversely affected by future investment associated with the proposed merger. Mr

Land said: "The merger will cost this generation of partners. Partners retiring just after the last merger were really screwed. Their income was down and their pension contributions were down. But it's a long-term game."

The motivation behind the proposed merger with KPMG is to share the huge projected sums that the firms believe they must invest to secure their prominent position. This suggests that there will be some real short-term pain for the partners.

Mr Land predicted that the future investment needs of the merged firm would be "comfortably in excess of half a billion dollars a year" and that the rationale behind the merger was that, at present, the firms are unable to invest as quickly as they would like.

He was optimistic about the likelihood of regulators allowing the proposed merger to go ahead, and he pointed out that "the choice of competitors in most of our markets are not accounting firms".

Ernst & Young said that UK fee income rose 15 per cent to £525 million last year and the average profit per partner increased 30 per cent to £259,000.

Mr Land said: "This has been a year of exceptional progress for our firm." The firm claims to now be the largest tax practice in the UK, with a 14 per cent rise in fees to £159 million. The rest of the growth was powered by management consultancy, up by 40 per cent to £108 million; business assurance, which includes audit, up by 7 per cent to £181 million; and corporate finance, up 24 per cent to £47 million.

Corporate recovery services slipped back by 5 per cent to £31 million, a reflection of the strong economy.

For the first time Ernst & Young's figures are shown on a five-year basis. This reveals that partners' earnings dipped during the last recession but it was a mere blip compared to what may lie ahead.

The figures showed that an average partner's profit for 1994 was £177,000, but the figure dipped to £171,000 in 1995.



Joining forces: Nick Land, left, of Ernst & Young, and Colin Sharman, of KPMG, after confirming plans to merge

Eurotunnel may cut lorry tariff

By Jason Nisse

EUROTUNNEL is believed to have offered to cut prices on freight traffic in order to persuade the British and French Governments to allow it to have the 34-year extension to its operating licence.

The tunnel group won shareholders' support for its £8.6 billion debt restructuring and is close to winning support from its 179 banks, despite not securing a deal to extend the licence. Only five banks have yet to sign up formally although they have agreed the refinancing in principle.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said earlier this year that any extension would be conditional on deals being struck to give the Government a share of Eurotunnel's profits, once it becomes profitable, and for Eurotunnel to promote freight traffic through the tunnel.

John Noulton, Eurotunnel's director of public affairs, said yesterday that the company had made some proposals to the French and British Governments on promoting freight.

Asked if this included price

cuts — something Eurotunnel previously said was out of the question — Mr Noulton replied: "Pass."

Eurotunnel, however, is planning to increase prices for tourists for next summer by up to 10 per cent. It said yesterday that the new prices would be published next month and the pricing strategy assumes that the European Commission will allow the cross-Channel ferry operations of P&O and Stena to merge.

Third-quarter turnover figures for Eurotunnel, released yesterday, disappointed City

analysts, showing a slight increase to £132 million at constant exchange rates. Tourist traffic fell by 30,000 vehicles to 727,000 and freight volumes fell a third to 107,000 lorries.

However, Eurotunnel said it was on target to meet its revenue predictions for this year and was aggressively cutting costs. One example is a fresh order for Le Shuttle trains which will cost £22 million each, compared with a cost of £65 million for the trains currently used on the service.

Price war will go on, says Murdoch

By Chris Ayres

RUPERT MURDOCH, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, yesterday said that he would not call an end to the newspaper price war between the UK titles owned by News International, a subsidiary of News Corp, and their rivals.

Mr Murdoch said: "No way will I call a truce. No one else

wants to call a truce, they insult me every day, so they can go to hell. People don't seem to like competition much in this country."

Mr Murdoch added that he had not made any political donations during the general election, throughout which The Sun, owned by News International, had supported the Labour Party. He said: "Not a penny, to Blair, or the Conservative Party or any other party." News International also owns The Times.

He made the comments after the annual meeting of British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite venture 40 per cent owned by News International.

Mr Murdoch, a director of BSkyB, also expressed his doubts over the future of pay-per-view football matches. "Pay-per-view throughout the world has only worked in a big way for huge boxing matches," he said. "When it comes to a more regular basis it is much more difficult."

Growth 'may hit BSkyB's shares'

By Chris Ayres

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television company, yesterday said that its share price could be further weakened during a period of uncertainty caused by a move to proceed with plans to create 200 digital television channels.

His comments were made at BSkyB's annual meeting after shareholders had expressed concern over the share price, down from 662p earlier this year to 416p. Yesterday, the price fell a further 10p to 405p. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

Mr Robinson said: "There is always vulnerability when you're introducing something new. Clearly we are the most successful pay-TV company in the world, but when you set out on a new venture there are risks associated with it as well as opportunities."

Yesterday, BSkyB reported a 7 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £62 million (£66

million), for the three months to September 30, on turnover up 24 per cent at £330 million (£266 million). Earnings fell from 3.9p to 3.3p a share.

The fall in profits was blamed mainly on a 34 per cent rise in operating costs, from £187 million to £251 million. This was caused by the renewal of BSkyB's rights to broadcast live Premier League football matches, and the cost of setting up new channels and a digital service.

However, BSkyB said that costs had been offset by growing subscription revenues, with the number of subscribers up by 129,000 to 6.5 million. It added that the launch of its digital television service next spring would benefit from a marketing and promotion deal it had signed with Cable and Wireless Communications.

BSkyB confirmed that the subsidised price of digital decoders would be less than £200 for existing subscribers.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RJB blames 400 job cuts on uncertainty

FOUR hundred jobs are being cut because of uncertainty in the coal industry, mining chiefs confirmed yesterday. The jobs will be lost at Maltby Colliery, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, which is owned by RJB Mining. The company, which warned last month that there would be severe cuts at the pit, has already axed 50 jobs at the Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, and 45 at Thoresby Colliery, Nottinghamshire. Most of the men who will lose their jobs at Maltby, which has a 640-strong workforce, are employed by two contracting companies.

An RJB spokesman blamed the uncertainty caused by contract negotiations with power companies and the strong pound making foreign coal more competitive. He said: "Because of the uncertainty in the coal industry about contracts it's a prudent step to stop work on developing new reserves we may not need. We can re-start operations if necessary — all the equipment has been left in place." Jeff Stubbs, Maltby Colliery NUM delegate, said the reason was that the Government was not helping the industry. "They are leaving us with no market," he said. "Everyone at the pit is understandably depressed about it all."

SunAlliance £75m deal

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE has agreed to buy a 40 per cent stake in Seguros de Vida La Construcción for about £75 million. La Construcción is the third largest Chilean life insurer, with premium income of £67.5 million last year and net assets of £34 million. Royal said £34 million of the cash payment would take the form of new equity in La Construcción. The deal includes an option for Royal to increase its holding to 51 per cent after December 31, 1998 and call options whereby it could buy 100 per cent.

Channel 5 chief switches

DAVID BROOK, the marketing and communications director of Channel 5, is on the move again 18 months after leaving The Guardian to take responsibility for the launch promotion of the new channel. Mr Brook has been poached by Michael Jackson, the new chief executive of Channel 4, and is to become director of strategy and development at Channel 4. Apart from overseeing both consumer marketing and promotion, the former newspaper executive will take charge of Channel 4's digital channels.

Arena's aim for course

ARENA LEISURE, owner of the Lingfield Park all-weather racetrack, is negotiating to acquire a 60-year lease on Brighton racecourse from the local authority. Graham Parr, Arena's chief executive, said that it planned a £10 million-plus redevelopment of the course, including a new grandstand and sports bar. Arena almost doubled pre-tax profits to £209,000 in the half year to August 31 because of a contribution from Lingfield Park, bought in June. There is no interim dividend. The shares, placed in June at 10p, held at 20 1/2 p.

Low-income gas move

BRITISH GAS'S prices for low-income customers may be cut in January, the industry regulator said yesterday. The move would overturn the company's decision to cut gas prices by 9 per cent for all customers except those using pre-payment meters, who, it says, cost more to service. Clare Spottiswoode said a review could trigger price cuts after Martin O'Neill, chairman of the Commons Trade and Industry Committee, said it was "wrong that regulators chose for ideological reasons to duck out of social or environmental responsibilities".

Northern Rock rate rise

ANOTHER major lender yesterday increased its mortgage rate following the Abbey National's lead. Northern Rock has raised its standard variable rate by 0.25 per cent to 8.70 per cent, with effect from December 1 for existing customers. The Abbey's new rates range between 8.70 per cent and 8.60 per cent, depending on the amount borrowed. The increases are a response to the Bank of England's decision to raise the bank base rate 0.25 per cent to 7.25 per cent. A Halifax spokesman said that the bank was still "considering its options".

Jurys Inn expands

JURYS HOTEL GROUP has unveiled plans to develop its economy Jurys Inn division in Edinburgh and Manchester at a total cost to the Dublin-based company of £17 million. The Edinburgh hotel, due to open next summer, will have 190 bedrooms at about £65 a room. Jurys has signed a 25-year lease and will invest £3 million. It has acquired a site in Manchester subject to planning permission. Total development costs are around £14 million. The group is looking for further sites for the Jurys Inn brand in Birmingham, Leeds and London.

Lubricants plant to close

BP and Mobil are to close their jointly operated lubricants plant at Llandarcy, near Swansea, with the loss of 400 jobs. The closure, due to be completed by 1999, is a further blow to the oil industry in South Wales which has suffered a series of cutbacks in refining at Milford Haven, Dyfed. The 270 staff and 130 contractors at Llandarcy will start to leave from mid-1998. Swansea docks, which handled products for the Llandarcy plant, will also lose business as a result of the closure.

Oil terminal opened

THE Azerbaijan International Operating Company, a consortium including BP, Exxon, Amoco and Russia's Lukoil, officially opened the \$70 million (£41 million) Sangachai oil terminal, which is expected to be able to handle 40 million tonnes of oil annually within ten years. The terminal is 30 kilometres south of Baku, the capital. The AIOC aims to export 5 million tonnes annually by 2002 through a pipeline to Novorossiysk in Russia and through another crossing Georgia to the south.

Pentagon veteran for Boeing

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

WILLIAM PERRY, the former US Defence Secretary, has joined the board of Boeing, the aerospace and defence group, only ten months after leaving the Pentagon.

The controversial appointment could rekindle the way of words with Airbus, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace. Industry insiders see the appointment as a "golden handshake" for services rendered.

Mr Perry, 70, is known as the godfather of the newly consolidated US defence sector. In 1993, he gathered industry chiefs at a legendary dinner at the White House. He



Perry: urged mergers

encouraged them to merge to cut procurement costs and told them that the US Government would ignore antitrust considerations. Four years after the

so-called Last Supper, only three of the dozen-plus companies are left over.

Completing the mega-mergers, Boeing this summer took over McDonnell Douglas, primarily a defence company. Airbus was highly critical of the marriage of a commercial plane maker and an arms manufacturer. It fears that McDonnell's government defence research funds will be used to subsidise Boeing's commercial planes.

Mr Perry's appointment is seen by industry-watchers as evidence that the Chinese walls between Boeing's aerospace and defence businesses are, at best, knee-high. The EU Commission had threatened to block the McDonnell

takeover and only relented after Boeing agreed to erect administrative barriers between arms manufacturing and planemaking.

Airbus declined to comment on the appointment. A Boeing spokesman said: "William Perry also sits on other boards, like United Technologies. He has a lot of different talents. He has experience in academia, industry and government. He is also an entrepreneur who started his own company."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.56	2.58
Austria S	27.82	18.98
Belgium F	63.64	92.88
Canada \$	2.527	2.538
Cyprus Cyp	0.905	0.933
Denmark D	11.74	10.85
Finland Fmk	9.29	8.94
France F	10.25	9.51
Germany Dm	3.08	2.85
Greece Dr	486	447
Hong Kong \$	14.01	12.91
Iceland	128	105
Ireland P	1.19	1.09
Israel S	6.94	6.59
Italy Lit	2044	2007
Japan Yen	220.73	212.20
Malta	0.884	0.825
Netherlands Gld	3.405	2.200
New Zealand \$	2.88	2.65
Norway Kr	12.58	11.95
Portugal Esc	311.83	289.50
Spain Ptas	220.73	212.20
Sweden Kr	13.82	12.50
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.32
Turkey Lira	8250.65	3051.67
USA \$	1.812	1.698

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City cool as Hambros profits leap

Powerful recovery by generator

Taylor Nelson in talks to buy Sofres

Why the old guard must go



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

ical restructuring of the hierarchy. There are still key people in the upper echelons of Barclays who, in their early days with the bank, were forced to spend time each morning perfecting their copper plate. Mr Taylor has been loathe to move them out, but change is hard to accomplish when the old guard is so much in evidence. Having been bloodied by the BZW deal, he may now feel ready to take a tougher line with the main business.

Life exists outside Europe

Britain's exporters appear to be far more doughty than their representatives suggest. While organisations such as the CBI wall about the hardships of living with a strong currency, their members have been admirably nimble on their feet.

According to a fascinating

statistical snippet in the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*, British firms have tried to mitigate the effects of sterling's strength by redirecting their exports to those markets with stronger growth and where the pound's appreciation has been less pronounced. So it is that the best export performance has been not only with America, whose strong recovery offers obviously rich pickings, but also in less obvious markets in the Middle East, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe.

If any proof were needed that Britain is not hopelessly dependent on the markets of its European partners, net exports to France and Germany, traditionally accounting for a quarter of all Britain's exports, have been negligible. Of the 6.6 per cent growth in export volumes in the year to the second quarter, exports to France and Germany accounted for virtually none of it. Europhiles argue that trade

with the European Union is now so important to Britain that only membership of the single currency will stave off economic disaster. But it is clear that British exporters are able successfully to tap into markets much further afield, courtesy of well-established trading ties across the world.

Britain's excellent trading performance in the face of a 20 per cent appreciation in sterling over the past year also attests to industry's ability to cope with wild swings in the exchange rate. This, too, suggests that life outside the single currency, even if it entails great volatility in the value of the pound, would not be the unmitigated disaster that euro fans would have us believe.

The Bank is relying on the strength of sterling to slow the economy to a more sustainable pace. The apparent resilience of exports suggests that other depressants might be required. Further rises in interest rates are

now being priced into the market and the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England will certainly have found encouragement in the report to feel that it could move again next month. A rise in rates rather than interest rates might be a more reasonable response but the Government has precluded that option.

BMW in the driving seat

Vickers did not even have to train its big guns on Mayflower to blow it out of the water, for BMW's intervention has prevented the tankmaker from having to defend a bid.

Mayflower knew that it had to persuade its major customer, BMW, to stand aside from the battle if its audacious plan was to succeed but, in the event, BMW has clearly signalled that it is not going to let its upstart supplier get its hands on Rolls-Royce.

Mayflower hopes its withdrawal will mean it maintains its good commercial relationship with BMW. And why shouldn't it? By precipitating the skirmish, Mayflower has enabled BMW to

warn off any other potential bidders for Rolls-Royce and clear the way for its own takeover of the luxury marque.

The German company has the dual advantages of having the pre-requisite blessing of the Rolls-Royce aero-engine company and of being a pivotal supplier to Rolls-Royce cars, which do not go far without their BMW made engines.

This would appear to put BMW firmly in the driving seat in taking Vickers to its desired disposal of RR. This is unlikely to make BMW feel generous. Will the price Vickers can get for Rolls-Royce fall from £400 million to £300 million or less? This is something Sir Colin Chandler must guard against. Investors who have suffered a 50 per cent decline in Vickers value, relative to the engineering sector, before the Mayflower bid, will not swallow a RR giveaway now.

Watching brief

SCHROEDERS has been poring over Hambros for almost six months to come up with a solution to the group's problems. Sadly, they were unable to produce anything to make Sir Chips Keswick a more popular man as he announced some dismal figures yesterday. Westdeutsche Landesbank may still be keen on buying the banking business, despite its fading profits, but perhaps they wanted to see the CSFB deal before talking price.

City cool as Hambros profits leap

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HAMBROS, the investment bank, yesterday failed to convince the City that its fortunes are on the mend, in spite of a 51 per cent leap in pre-tax profits for the first half of the year.

Shares in Hambros fell by 12½p, to 245p, after banking analysts complained that the company had been too "tight-lipped" about its on-going review of operations.

Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of the Hambros group, declined to comment on the progress of the review, although he indicated that a quick conclusion would be in shareholders' interests.

Hambros invited Schroders to conduct the strategic review several months ago after some shareholders, most notably Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong fund manager, expressed dissatisfaction with the bank's performance.

Schroders is investigating whether Hambros should be broken up, or even sold. Reports at the weekend of an informal approach for the banking business by Westdeutsche Landesbank, a German

bank, have been played down by both parties.

One much-touted possibility is for Hambros to hive off Countrywide, its estate agency business, and Hambros Insurance Services. The bank's majority stakes in the two companies generate more than 60 per cent of its current pre-tax profits.

In the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits of Hambros rose to £52.9 million, against £35 million for the same period in 1996. The banking business improved to £6.5 million, from £4.1 million, but profits in the investment management arm slipped to £18.3 million, from £20.4 million.

Sir Chips was equally reticent about the bank's involvement in Andrew Regan's ill-fated bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, saying that he had apologised and made restitution. Although the bank has never disclosed the size of the payment to CWS, it is thought to be less than £4 million.

Times, page 28

Powerful recovery by generator

By GEORGE SIVELL

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear power generator, pleased the City with a first half pre-tax profit of £4 million, a sharp turnaround from the previous £53 million loss.

Brokers had expected less from the normally quiet first half and upgraded forecasts for the full year from £90 million to £120 million. The shares rose 10½p, to 382½p, short of the high of 436p reached earlier this year but way above the 198p paid by small investors who applied for shares in July 1996.

Electricity output rose 4.4 per cent although wholesale prices in the pool mechanism fell 8 per cent. British Energy benefited from savings in fuel costs arising from renegotiated contracts with BNFL.

The half-year dividend rises 5.5 per cent to 4.9p from earnings of 0.4p (4.6p loss). Brokers expect a share buyback next year.

Energy says gas drive is warming up

By PAUL DURMAN

THE Energy Group, which is awaiting a Monopolies and Mergers Commission verdict on a £3.7 billion recommended takeover by PacificCorp of America, claims to be talking about a quarter of the retail gas customers who have switched from British Gas.

John Devaney, chairman of Eastern Energy's UK power business, said that the group is already supplying cheaper gas to 500,000 customers taking advantage of the roll-out of competition in the gas market.

Energy made first-half operating profits of £187 million, down from a pro forma comparison of £196 million. A £112 million windfall tax payment, and increased interest payments stemming from Energy's demerger from Hanson, led to an after-tax loss of £34 million, against a £113 million profit last year. Energy is to pay an interim dividend of 8p on January 9.

Taylor Nelson in talks to buy Sofres

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

TAYLOR NELSON AGB, the UK market research group, confirmed yesterday that it was in advanced negotiations to buy Sofres of France, the sixth largest marketing information group in the world.

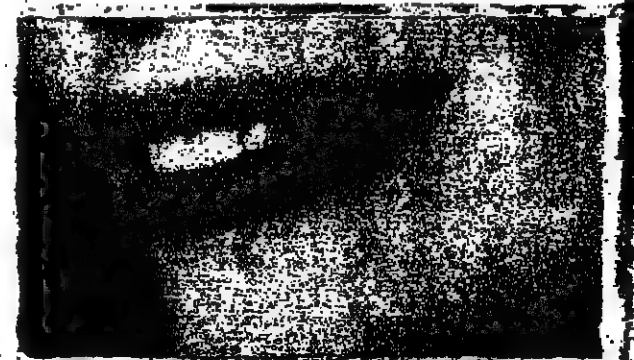
The deal, which is likely to be worth about £130 million, would make Taylor Nelson the world's fifth largest market research group. It would be the British group's largest acquisition and part of its strategy to become a global player in the market research

and information field. The company, which is capitalised at about £140 million, has even been looking at a cautious return to the North American market after the disaster suffered by AGB, its predecessor, a decade ago.

Any deal would be funded by a combination of debt and equity. The equity component would be provided in part by a rights issue and in part by a subscription of shares by Pimalec Communications, the main shareholder in Sofres.



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

London stays calm in face of Far East falls

CITY investors were treated to another volatile performance, with fresh sell-offs overnight in the Far East leaving equities and gilts sharply lower.

The outcome could have been a lot worse. But the refusal of American investors to be panicked by the latest turn of events saw the Dow Jones industrial average pare back earlier losses of 88 points, enabling London to close above its low of the day.

The FTSE 100 index finished 73.3 down at 4,720.4, having been 113.3 down at one stage.

Once again turnover was on the low side, with 719 million shares changing hands. Investors are proving reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of the conclusion of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting. There is clearly mounting pressure for fresh rises in rates on both sides of the Atlantic. The latest average earnings and unemployment statistics were seen as positive, as was the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report. But they failed to improve sentiment.

BT was again heavily traded, with turnover reaching 14.7 million shares at the price rise 3p to 459p. Tradepoint, the publicly quoted rival to the Stock Exchange, claimed another victory with 3.8 million of those shares traded on its order driven system. Tradepoint finished 4p down at 103p.

Cable & Wireless fell 7p to 478p after weighing in with half-year figures. Dick Brown, chief executive, confirmed the group was still looking for a global partner, but ruled out any link-up with BT after its failure to merge with MCI.

Commercial Union was the worst performing stock among the top 100 companies, dropping 55p, or 0.8 per cent, to 745p with brokers expressing disappointment over its net asset value. A similar reception was given to General Accident, down 7p at 945p, earlier in the week.

Those overnight losses that saw both the Hang Seng and the Nikkei suffer falls of around 4 per cent, impinged on the usual clutch of companies with interests there. HSBC dropped 34p to £13.82, with Standard Chartered up 12p at 611p, and Indochina 5p lower at 214p.

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Bupa expansion may prove unhealthy

The acquisition of Care First might seem a bargain but could prove a worthless deal, says Marianne Curphey

Remember the Bupa advertising campaign? "You're amazing. We want you to stay that way." This is not an epithet that could be applied to the management of Care First, the nursing home provider for which Bupa has launched a £241 million bid.

The management have no credibility and the business is a complete mess, one industry source commented yesterday. "The shareholders must be delighted that Bupa has come to the rescue."

Why, though, would Bupa wish to pay a premium for a portfolio of drab, unappealing nursing homes with an average 150 beds and no en suite facilities?

By contrast, rival providers are offering modern, comfortable 50-bed homes with their own bathrooms as standard and Care First's cannot compete. Despite excitement in the 1980s over huge potential yields on private nursing

homes, the industry is currently suffering from overcapacity and a squeeze on local authority funds. Currently, there are much higher margins to be gained from homecare and private medical insurance business.

The strategy behind Bupa's bid is its wish to diversify. Bupa has seen its share of the private medical insurance eroded from a peak of nearly 60 per cent in the UK to just under 45 per cent over the past decade.

Bupa and other providers are also aware that a large proportion of the population believe Labour will be in office for ten years and will save the National Health Service during that time. Therefore, the logic goes, private medical insurance is an unnecessary luxury. Currently 15 per cent of the

population has some form of medical insurance policy, but the number sold has been flat over the past few years and the removal of tax relief on medical insurance policies for the over-60s in the last Budget dealt the industry another blow.

Healthcare analysts believe Bupa's initial proposal of a premium of around 15p a share was pitched in order to avoid a hostile takeover battle, since there are likely to be a few other bidders for the business. After Care First's rejection of the bid yesterday, Bupa is likely to increase the offer to an additional

5p per share but no higher. Unlike a publicly quoted corporation, Bupa's status as a private company means it needs to guard its reputation and image jealously. Any bad publicity resulting from an aggressive takeover battle might backfire on the provider which has spent tens of millions of pounds on advertising.

Besides, Bupa has £600 million of spare cash in its reserves and does not have the same pressure as a listed company would have to come up with swift returns for institutional shareholders. Bupa's board has the freedom

to make deals such as the proposed Care First bid and, although it has a panel of governors and trustees to whom it must report, they are unlikely to veto the move.

Bupa is probably the only provider in the market for whom this deal may, in time, work out. Paul Saper, a healthcare analyst with Laing & Buisson, said: "Bupa has now built up a strong reputation in the healthcare field. It is so well known among the population that customers are likely to opt for a Bupa nursing home on the strength of that image alone."

This is a chance for Bupa to exploit the strength of its corporate image which it has spent years building up."

The strategy will take time to bear fruit and is not without its risks. There are plenty of small nursing home providers who fell by the wayside after the 1980s revolution in care for the elderly failed to take off.

On paper the figures look right: by 2025 the number of people in the UK who are over 85 — the greatest users of long-term care — will have almost doubled to 1.5 million. However, since the early 1990s when local authorities were given control of nursing home funding, cash for admissions has dried up and the number of occupied nursing home beds has fallen. With high fixed costs, the

operators' profits came under pressure and share prices fell.

This is one of the reasons that Goldborough was gradually reducing its dependence on nursing homes before Bupa launched a bid for it earlier this year.

As Bupa looks for diversification abroad it is also attempting to keep a tight rein on costs at home.

It is in the process of trying to introduce a contract with hospital consultants to reduce expenses by setting limits for the fees surgeons can charge for operations. The British Medical Association has objected to the scheme which some consultants have described as blackmail. Bupa knows, however, that more policyholders are claiming on their insurance and premiums are rising. Only time will tell whether diversifying into nursing homes when they are out of favour with the market will leave Bupa sitting on a bargain or saddled with a worthless investment.

Europe should learn from US stance on tackling pollution



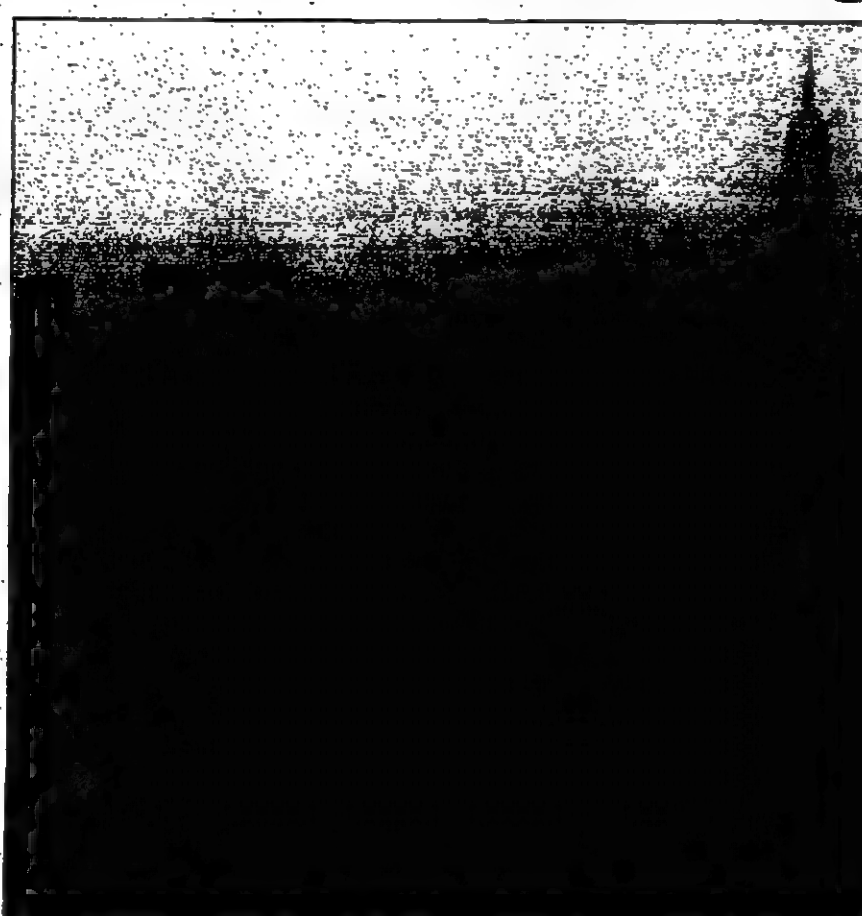
AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

There is a case for doing nothing about global warming. Scientists increasingly agree that man-made pollution will cause the world to heat up, but they still have little idea of the effects. The US Vice-President's apocalyptic vision that we will all be living in a water-world is far from proven. Better to wait until we see the harmful effects, and build walls around Bangladesh if necessary, than to risk retreating in current economic growth, reducing the wealth available to make that eventual adjustment.

That is a respectable view, if unfashionable. It is one I share. The UK, in particular, should consider it seriously as the British Isles may even benefit from the predicted changes. Sir Robert May, the UK Government's chief scientific adviser, himself a supporter of action to combat global warming, suggests that "by the year 2020, climate change in Britain is likely to correspond roughly to a northward shift in climate characteristics of some 100 to 200 kilometres. Many might think that no bad thing."

This is not, though, a case much aired at the weekend in Tokyo, when two dozen countries tried to draft a convention for 160-odd countries to sign at next month's meeting in Kyoto.

In those negotiations, the Clinton Administration has been much pilloried by Europeans for taking a supposedly soft stance. But if countries are to "do something" about global warming, the US's recommended approach is the only sensible one. The moral note adopted by the Europeans in chastising the US, and by the British Government in particular, is both unjustified and unhelpful. From December 1 to 10 in Kyoto, signatories to a



US viewpoint: President Clinton wants a permit system through which countries can buy the right to stay dirty

1992 UN climate change convention will try to hammer out binding targets for developed countries to cut emissions of "greenhouse gases", mainly carbon dioxide, which are believed to cause global warming. The meeting has attracted astonishing professions of support from the main industrialised countries, compared with their lukewarm attitudes a year ago. In Tokyo, politicians declared firmly that the gulfs between their positions could be bridged.

It is hard, though, to see the source of this optimism, with Kyoto just three weeks away, the gulfs remain. The US wants developed countries to return their emissions to 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. Japan wants a 5 per cent reduction from 1990 levels within the same time frame. Most ambitious, the European Union wants a 15 per cent reduction by 2010. The terms on which developing countries might be brought into the convention are also disputed.

The Senate, which must

ratify US participation, insists developing countries commit to targets by 2010. The US Administration also wants a global system of "tradeable permits", through which countries can buy the right to stay dirty from cleaner nations.

Negotiations were bound to be tense. A good case can be made for each of the following, conflicting views of how the cost should be shared: the greatest burden should fall on those that contributed most past pollution; on those that will contribute most in the future; on those that will suffer least from the effects (or even benefit); or on those that use energy least efficiently.

But the European target is peculiarly inflammatory. It starts from none of these principles, nor from any appeal to equity; it simply proposes an arbitrarily chosen reduction from an arbitrarily chosen starting point of 1990. Underpinning the EU's approach, and its unease about the US's suggestion of a global market in pollution permits, is

a curious moral tone. Peter Jorgensen, European Commission spokesman, pronounced the US's recommendations as "simply not good enough", saying that the US did not "face up to its global responsibilities".

Michael Meacher, the UK Environment Minister, in Washington before the Tokyo meeting, chastised the Americans for "not showing leadership, not being prepared to make as much effort as everyone else".

That line of criticism misses the point. What matters is the overall reduction in global emissions, not the individual effort. It is "a better use of money", as one US official put it, for the US to pay dirty countries to adopt cleaner technology than for it to improve its already relatively high standard of energy efficiency. It does not matter that the "effort" does not come within America's 50 states.

What is more, there is something of a humbug in the European position. It has seen

Europe-wide emissions restrained since 1990 by the collapse of East German heavy industry and by recession. It is also demanding that the EU be treated as one unit, within which the emissions of Spain and Portugal can continue to rise.

In the UK's case, the moral tone in the Government's statements veers towards the comic, given the pronouncements of Labour in opposition. A current article by Mr Meacher contains the following passage: "CO₂ emissions in the UK have fallen since 1990, thanks to the liberalisation of electricity combined with various government programmes. Restructuring our electricity system revealed just how inefficient it was. Once competition was introduced, new companies came in and built highly efficient gas-fired plants." It is scarcely credible that a Labour minister, straight-faced, can take credit for policies of the previous government once so bitterly contested: the deregulation of elec-

tricity, the "dash for gas" by the liberalised generators and, incidentally, the closure of the UK coal industry. He now instructs the US to follow the UK's lead in deregulation, criticising the US coal industry for "vehemently opposing" it.

Driftless aside, he is right in that the changes have equipped Britain with cheaper and, incidentally, cleaner energy. He could go further, and re-examine Labour's persisting hostility to nuclear power, which at present provides a third of Britain's electricity and half of Scotland's. By 2015, almost all of that nuclear power will be phased out. The targets the UK Government is now so confident of meeting may look rather more elusive.

In spite of Mr Meacher's ambivalence about the sale of nuclear power to developing countries, he might also take the chance to ask why the UK nuclear industry, subsidised for so long on the ground that it would one day produce valuable exports, is lagging the Americans, Canadians and French in selling to China and India.

Rather than berating the US for lack of "effort", Britain and other European countries should remember the lesson closest to home, in Eastern Europe: that a few simple steps to clean up dirty countries offers large, quick, relatively cheap cuts in pollution. They should also learn the lesson of last month's sale of US nuclear reactors to China: that improving the energy efficiency of developing countries offers huge trading opportunities.

If they are serious about adopting workable targets, the US's recommendation of a global market in pollution permits is the sensible course. Or they could, of course, choose to do nothing.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Bank shows backbone with rate rise

From Mr Samuel Jacob
Sir, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee has finally developed some backbone. Its decision to lift interest rates by 25 basis points, wrong-footing the markets in the process, is the first piece of proactive monetary policy since independence was granted. Hitherto, we have seen the Bank adopting a passive reactionary stance, increasing interest rates as and when the markets expected such a move in a classic case of the tail wagging the dog.

Economic literature, however, shows us that the most effective changes in monetary policy are those unanticipated by the market.

The surprise nature of the move bears a striking resemblance to the 30 basis point rise in German rates implemented last month by the Bundesbank — an exemplification of sound anti-inflationary independent central bank policy.

Finally we have a monetary policy based on the underlying economic fundamentals rather than whimsical political considerations or market expectations. The short-term pain of some economic agents, eg. exporters and mortgage payers, must be traded off against the longer-term fruits of economic stability. Let the dog wag its tail and, if it must, let it bite too.

Yours faithfully,
Samuel Jacob,
Economist,
UnionCal,
Cornhill, EC3.
«uc02@centrenet.co.uk»

Art subsidies and higher spending tourists

From Mr Richard Harden
Sir, Roger Bootle (November 10) dismisses as "ridiculously weak" the argument that — for the sake of the tourist industry — subsidies are necessary to bolster London as a leading arts centre.

Mr Bootle bases this on the assertion that most tourists are as interested in Phantom of the Opera as in the Royal Opera House.

The key fact he completely overlooks, however, is that, economically speaking, the UK is already very much in need of a "better class" of visitor — though tourist numbers continue to escalate, the UK is falling, according to a recent report, to increase aver-

age "spend" per visitor in the same way as, say, France. So London, in particular, gets maximum congestion for minimum economic benefit.

Mr Bootle's coup de grace — he seems to think — is to wonder whether we should start subsidising hotels on the same principle as the arts.

What same principle? Without subsidies, there will still be hotels. But without subsidies it is entirely possible that there would be no grand opera in London at all.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HARDEN,
Harden's Guides,
29 Millers Street,
WC2.

Thumbs down

From Mr David C. Askren
Sir, I am contacting you in response to your Business article "BA's New Colours Given Thumbs Up Overseas". While Mr Ayling may think he has overseas support for his "new look", he does not in the US. Most people in the

airline industry here see the new livery as a huge blunder. Brand identity is very important in this business. Mr Ayling would be better off spending the £50 million on service improvements.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID C. ASKREN,
2777 Woodland Pl Dr, No 810,
Houston, Texas, USA.

Lloyd's loss

THE anonymous writer of a poison pen letter being peddled around about Charles Fry, chief executive of Johnson Fry, had better check his or her facts. Fry is understandably denying the allegation that he "allowed" his wife Jane to be made bankrupt, so evading any moral obligations to repay her losses at Lloyd's for her. The facts are that Fry became a name in 1983 and his wife joined five years later. "In keeping with many other people I gave my wife £100,000 and made her a

name at Lloyd's. Within three years she had lost £600,000," says Fry. His wife then went to the hardship committee at Lloyd's. This allowed her debts to be forgiven after a few years.

"I am a member. I did equally as badly as she did. I have paid all my losses. I resigned at the beginning of this year." There was no obligation under such circumstances to stand behind his wife's debts, says Fry, who professes little concern about such allegations being circulated about his private life.

● I have some bad news for investors in London & Continental Railways, the part-Virgin consortium that is building a line out of London towards the Channel Tunnel. Eurotunnel was asked yesterday if it was lending any assistance to the venture. This and that, said John Noulton, director of public affairs. Including help with drawing up the financing plan. With friends like these...

Bowing out

BUMPED into Peter Hillier, the genial former Barclays de Zoete Wedd leisure analyst,



at the High Court. He is one of the gaggle of City scribbles who, as I reported, have been drafted in to help Queens Moat Houses to fight its defence against the action for unfair dismissal by John Baird and other former directors. BZW was Queens Moat's joint broker. Peter tells me this will be his last week in the City. Currently working for Hudson Sandler, the public relations firm, he is retiring at the age of 56. Best wishes for the future, Peter, and I seem to remember I owe you lunch.

Clear vision

I HEAR that relations between the Mirror Group, which inhabits the Tower at Canary Wharf, and Citibank may not be that sparkling

once the American bank finally arrives at the turn of the century. Some Mirror employees are unhappy that the new Citibank Tower, now being built, is starting to cut off their splendid views. The news should amuse those local inhabitants who blame the Tower for blocking their television reception. Happily, I am told, the office of David Montgomery, chief executive, is not affected. So Monty's towering vision remains intact.

MUCH speculation in the press of late, they tell me, on just who will be taking over from Rupert Murdoch as chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation. He was himself tackled yesterday by reporters on the very subject. An announcement would definitely be made, he said. "Two months after I'm dead."

Closed door

DISHONEST salesmen flogging gas on the doorstep have been a nuisance for some time. But one doorstopper who demanded cash just to put householders in touch with one of British Gas's rivals more than met his match. The doorstopper in question was that of Martin O'Neill, chairman of the Trade and Industry Select Committee — and currently overseeing an investigation into the competitive gas market.

Petty cash

CHRIS WRIGHT, chairman of Chrysalis Group, is accustomed to dropping in unannounced at the company's radio station, Heart 106.2. When he did so yesterday the station had a temporary accounting difficulty. Two listeners had won £1,000 in a competition, but there was no one there to write the cheques. Wright pulled out his wallet and settled up in cash. Mind you, if I know Chris this probably left him with at least another ten grand in petty cash.

MARTIN WALLER



Chris Wright settled up with two Heart 106.2 competition winners

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"You realise if you'd bought it later, I could tell everybody it was a French outfit"

ACCOUNTANCY

Better rules for smaller firms

Isobel Sharp says the new ruling is a compromise but represents a big change in financial reporting

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got. With this adage in mind, will accountants dare to be different and take on board last week's new Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) for short?

There are good reasons for doing so. For example, the FRSSE is a mere 72 pages of the essential accountants' bible. It is a compromise. The new standards are designed to meet the needs of users and to cater for the complex business arrangements met in practice.

While larger companies have also been complaining from time to time of standards overload, the position for smaller firms was becoming insupportable, if not downright silly. Change was needed. Most agreed with that. But what the change should be generated widely divergent views. Complete exemption was not an option that would command support or respect. Whether accountants, no longer armed with accounting standards to follow, would create anarchy in small companies' accounts is probably unlikely. But there would be uncertainty and confusion among users, such as the banks and the tax authori-

ties, accustomed to receiving accounts produced against a known template.

So the compromise was the FRSSE. The next task is to ensure that things improve. That needs flair, imagination and adaptability, not only from accountants, but also from the supreme UK regulator, the Government. That is why the Institute of Chartered

Accountants of Scotland is asking this week for a separate Companies Act for smaller companies. In its report *Better Law, Better Business*, the institute wants company law segmented by company size. In this way, there would be specific focus in law on the regulation of small companies. Another step that could be achieved readily

is to reduce the number of exemptions, particularly in the Eighties, were unsuccessful. The standards continued to apply to all generally, although piecemeal reliefs were given. Overall, the position remained unsatisfactory.

The financial reporting standards issued in the Nineties are clearly distinguishable by their length and complexity from those issued in the preceding decades. This is not a criticism. The new standards are designed to meet the needs of users and to cater for the complex business arrangements met in practice.

While larger companies have also been complaining from time to time of standards overload, the position for smaller firms was becoming insupportable, if not downright silly. Change was needed. Most agreed with that. But what the change should be generated widely divergent views. Complete exemption was not an option that would command support or respect. Whether accountants, no longer armed with accounting standards to follow, would create anarchy in small companies' accounts is probably unlikely. But there would be uncertainty and confusion among users, such as the banks and the tax authori-



Isobel Sharp would prefer a document of seven pages, not 72

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would be an increase in the turnover threshold for qualification as a small company from £2.8 million to £4.2 million. That would allow a further 12,000 companies to benefit from the present small company exemptions in company law and to be able to adopt the FRSSE.

Although these steps are relatively easy, the next stage, proposed by the institute, of modernising, simplifying and improving the law for smaller companies would not be easy. Some desired elements might be possible only if the European law is changed. This takes time and patience. However, the new product — law fit for the new millennium and sized to meet the needs of smaller firms, is worth the struggle.

Views will be divided. This was evident in the process of producing the FRSSE. The best summary was in a piece of Irish research. Asked whether people have concerns about a possible relaxation of standards for small companies, the helpful response was: "Some do and some do not. Some have no opinion one way or the other."

Perhaps the only measure of progress will be change itself, whether that is viewed as good, bad or indifferent.

The author is a partner in Arthur Andersen's Professional Standards Group and a member of the ASB's committee on accounting for smaller entities and the ICA's working party responsible for the Better Law, Better Business report.

It all ends in tears for man with Achilles' ear

THE annual London dinner of the Scots ICA, held on the first Monday of November every year at the Savoy, is a great occasion. It is good-humoured. It has to be. What other accounting institute could get away with describing England and Wales as an "area". But an area dinner it is.

This year it was even more eventful than usual. But it was not the Scots who were creating the stir. It was the English. The English ICA was known to be in the throes of agreeing a leaving package for Andrew Colquhoun, its chief executive, and severing its connections. Yet the rumour was that he was at the dinner and ready to take his place on the top table. And so he did, beaming in all directions. It was a curious decision. But a brave one.

The other rumour running around the dinner was that Colquhoun intended, two days later, to take his place at the monthly council meeting that would decide his fate. It came as no surprise, when the Wednesday came, to discover that he had "resigned" the previous day.

Colquhoun had been with the institute since 1984. He joined it from Shandwick Consultants, after a period in the Foreign Service, to be head of public relations. Colquhoun is a strikingly bright man — first-class honours, doctorate, and an MBA degree in the time and achieved with distinction — but he had one real failing. If someone can have an Achilles' heel in their ear, it was he. He had difficulty listening. And he was not a chartered accountant.

This should not matter. Administration is administration. His predecessor, when he took over in 1990, had been a civil servant. But the institute has never known exactly what it wanted of its secretary and chief executive. And gradually the institute bureaucracy multiplied. It was the spirit of the times. Governance was the watchword and governance meant setting up committees, directorates and working parties. Many of them simply keeping an eye on each other. Steadily, initiative ebbed away. People became so used to getting flak for any decisive act that, with their energy drained away by constant second-guessing, they either left or took simply to getting by.

It was always going to end in tears. And by last week the final act took place. In a sepulchral atmosphere in the council chamber, Chris Laine, the usually genial president, read out the statement that "Andrew

Colquhoun, secretary and chief executive of the institute, is to leave his current position as part of a package of management changes planned by the council of the institute."

And that was it. It had been startlingly badly handled. For some weeks, anyone trying to get a hold of Colquhoun for a chat had been told he was ill. After several messages like this, people became concerned. But as far as the institute staff were concerned, he was either ill or still in harness.

Senior members of staff receive a memo each week, detailing the activities of the institute's executive members. Three weeks ago it told them Colquhoun was in New York on official business. Other members of the profession at the same conference sought for him in vain. Then two weeks ago came the final chaos. In London, the staff memo said that he was in Paris at the World Accounting Congress. In Paris, where the three chartered institutes hosted a reception, he was said to be either "ill" or simply "in London".

When it became apparent that the institute's officeholders had been negotiating terms with him since early October, the institute still didn't talk to its staff. When the truth appeared in the newspapers, the institute then, and only then, briefed its press office staff. They were as astounded as many of the ordinary staff of the institute.

Now the institute is trying to find a replacement. The word is that a radical change is under consideration. This does not mean that the Gerrard report into the institute's organisation, which suggested a director-general earlier in the year, is going to be followed. This was partly

Colquhoun's undoing. He felt his position to be under pressure, as long as a director-general was the fashionable solution. As enthusiasm for it ebbed, he felt safer. The letter he received from the president at the beginning of last month was "a surprise". Laine and his successors, Chris Swinson of BDO Stoy Hayward and Dame Sheila Masters, want something more radical. Masters, in particular, has always argued for a ruthless approach to the institute's staff.

In particular, they want someone who will be, as well as a good people manager and a good communicator, someone who can recognise commercial ideas and drive them forward. They are going to have to be very careful. Disasters lurk within such a job specification.



ROBERT BRUCE

An unwieldy head count

AS PART of the programme of "getting closer together", senior staff at Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand are meeting to ensure a smooth transition towards merger. The meetings are meant to identify issues that should be sorted out. One of these would appear to be the relative efficiency or bureaucracy of each of the firms. One meeting was of department heads from one particular discipline. Twenty-two people turned up — two

from Price Waterhouse, 20 from Coopers. "How many people do you think it takes for them to change a lightbulb?" was muttered under the Price Waterhouse breath.

Puzzling attire

IAN BRINDLE, currently UK senior partner of Price Waterhouse but the man who will replace him in the intergalactic title of Global Risk Management Leader should the merg-

er go through, is trying to enact some culture change of his own. Always fond of bright ties, he has taken to wearing one depicting brightly coloured jigsaw puzzle pieces. By December, should partners vote the merger through, he will doubtless reveal what the completed puzzle means.

Poor timing

MORALE is always low when a chief executive is removed.

And so it was at the English ICA when Andrew Colquhoun resigned last week. What is required is an upbeat message to staff to try to raise morale again. The head of administration, Paul Glicker, does not appear to have done his cause much good. He chose the same time to announce to several staff that, because the grading system had inexplicably got out of kilter, they could all forget about pay increases this year.

Debate that grates

THE General Practitioner Board of the English ICA is keen on the issue of whether audits should be abolished for small companies. For one, abolition might wipe out the need for small practitioners. So they have organised a debate on December 10, with the motion that small firms need not have an audit. Unfortunately such a line is not official policy. The board has panicked and what was to have been an open debate will be behind closed doors.

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal

Law Report November 13 1997

House of Lords

Court cannot review commissioner

Regina v Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls. Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery [Judgment October 15]. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards performed a function which was concerned with activities within Parliament and the responsibility for supervising him was placed on a special standing committee of the House of Commons. It was therefore inappropriate for the court to use supervisory powers over the commissioner.

The Court of Appeal so held when refusing a renewed application by Mr Mohammed Al Fayed and upholding a decision by Mr Justice Sedley on April 24 not to grant Mr Al Fayed judicial review of a report dated March 5, 1997 by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in which he rejected a complaint made by Mr Al Fayed that Mr Michael Howard, then a minister of the Crown as well as a member of Parliament, had received a corrupt payment. The report concluded that Mr Howard had no case to answer.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Michael Fordham for Mr Al Fayed; Mr Stephen Richards for the commissioner.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the issue was whether the supervisory jurisdiction of the court applied where the

impugned decision was not by the House of Commons itself, or by one of its committees, but by an independent person who had been appointed by Parliament to exercise an investigative function. The question raised was of the relationship between the courts and Parliament. That was a relationship which was central to the constitutional arrangements of the country.

It was clearly established that the courts exercised a self-denying ordinance in relation to interfering with the proceedings of Parliament.

That approach was supported by article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 which provided that "the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament".

The source which resulted in the setting up of a standing committee with responsibilities in relation to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards was *Standards in Public Life* (Cmd 2850+), informally called the Nolan Report.

That report resulted in the setting up of a standing committee with responsibilities in relation to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Lord Nolan recommended, inter alia, that the House should appoint a person of independent standing, who should have a degree of tenure and not be a career member of the House of Commons staff, as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; that the commissioner should have independent discretion to decide whether or not to complain mer-

ited investigation or to initiate an investigation; and that he should be able to send for persons, papers and records, and therefore needed to be supported by the authority of a select committee with the necessary powers.

There was in the Nolan Report itself an analogy drawn between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and another Parliamentary Commissioner, that for administration who was commonly referred to as the Ombudsman.

The argument on behalf of Mr Al Fayed relied on the similarities between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and that of the Ombudsman, and on the decision of the Divisional Court in *R v Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Ex parte Dyer* (1994) 1 WLR 621, where it was held that there was nothing in the Ombudsman's role or the statutory framework within which he operated to take him outside the purview of judicial review.

His Lordship said that there was no doubt that there was a similarity between the two officers. The Ombudsman was not, strictly speaking, an officer of Parliament. He did however have the privileges of such an officer. In addition both officers were subject to the supervision of standing committees of Parliament and both made reports to Parliament.

There was however a significant distinction between the two roles which was critical. The Ombuds-

man's activities were in relation to what could loosely be called the administration and were not in relation to activities of Parliament.

The Ombudsman investigated the activities of government which were the last resort of judicial review. Activities of Parliament were not the basic fare of judicial review.

It was important to identify the specific function of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards which was the subject of complaint on the instant application.

It was that a member of Parliament received a corrupt payment. It was rightly argued for Mr Al Fayed that Parliamentary privilege would not prevent the courts investigating issues of such a nature. Another member of Parliament had committed a criminal offence or made a libellous statement outside the House.

It was submitted that consistent with that, the sort of complaint with Mr Al Fayed made was not of an activity in relation to which a member of Parliament would have parliamentary immunity.

Lord Woolf said that the court was not concerned with what the member was doing but with the nature of the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

He was conducting his activities under the supervision of the relevant committee, because the activity which was complained of could have an effect on the workings of Parliament. It was therefore directly related to what happened in Parliament. That was the really significant distinction between the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman was concerned with looking at what happened in relation to the administration by government and other relevant public bodies outside Parliament. He was concerned with the functioning of the public service outside Parliament.

On the other hand the focus of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards was with the workings and activities within Parliament. It was one of the means by which the select committee set up by the House carried out its functions which were accepted to be proceedings of the House.

That being the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, it would be inappropriate for the court to use its supervisory powers to control what he did in relation to such an investigation.

The responsibility for supervising him was placed by Parliament, through its standing orders, on the special standing committee of the House and it was for that body to perform the supervisory role and not the courts.

Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Travers Smith Braidwaite Hill Dickinson David Campbell, Liverpool.

Morris and Others v Rayners Enterprises Incorporated and Another

Same v Agrichemicals Ltd and Others

(In re BCCI No 8). Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton [Judgment October 30].

An agreement between a bank and a depositor to secure a loan by the bank to a company, which created a charge in favour of the bank over the deposit and provided that the deposit would be repayable only if all liabilities of the principal debtor had been discharged, but did not impose personal liability on the depositor was effective security, and would not, on the bank's insolvency, trigger mandatory set-off under rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) since there was no mutuality between the depositor and the bank.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing appeals by: 1 Rayners Enterprises Inc, the principal debtor; and Mohammed Jessa, the depositor; and 2 Agrichemicals Ltd, Bishopsgate Estates, Eurofort Ltd, Solat Holdings Ltd, Solat Services Ltd, Tradeworth Ltd, the principal depositors; and Societe Generale Cedric SA, Societe Generale Cedric SA, Societe Generale Cedric SA, the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Millett) (The Times January 8, 1996; In re BCCI No 8) (1996) Ch 249.

Each security document purported (1) to grant the bank a proprietary interest over the deposit in the form of a lien or charge, (2) to warrant that the depositor had not previously encumbered his interest nor would do so in future and (3) to provide that the deposit would only be repayable if all the liabilities of the principal debtor had been repaid.

The document did not contain any promise by the depositor to pay what might be due from the principal debtor to the bank.

The appellants had argued, relying on, inter alia, *MS Fashions Ltd v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA* (1993) Ch 425, that the only way in which the transaction as formulated could be given a meaning would be if it were construed as creating a personal liability on the part of the depositor to pay the borrower's indebtedness. Since, as the Court of Appeal had found, a charge over a deposit was conceptually impossible and created no proprietary interest in the bank and so would not operate as effective security.

If such an obligation were imposed, it was submitted, the bank would be entitled to set off its claim against the depositor against his claim for the return of the deposit. On the winding up of the bank, the effect of rule 4.90 would be to make such a set-off mandatory.

His Lordship said that the document in *MS Fashions* was construed as creating a personal liability only to give effect to references to the liability of the depositor being that of the debtor. In the present case, the security document merely created a charge over the deposit and a contractual obligation on the part of the depositor to pay the borrower's indebtedness. It simply could not be construed as creating a personal joint and several obligation, and no cross-claim for the purposes of set-off arose.

Moreover, there was no necessity to construe the document in that way, since his Lordship agreed with the Court of Appeal that it could provide perfectly good security by virtue of the contractual provisions which limited the right of repayment of the deposit, and made it a flawed asset.

Further, disagreeing with the Court of Appeal, his Lordship said that the document was effective to create a charge over the deposit in favour of the bank.

In those circumstances, his Lordship said that rule 4.90 would not apply, since it required at the least the existence of the right to make a pecuniary demand.

A right to appropriate property under one's control or to be discharged from a liability was not the same thing as a right to make a pecuniary demand upon the other party to mutual dealings. Accordingly, since there was no set-off between the depositor and the bank at the bankruptcy stage, all the depositor could do was to prove in the liquidation for the recovery of his deposit.

Lord Goff, Lord Nicholls, Lord Hope and Lord Hutton agreed.

Solicitors: Haring Ross Goggin & Gend; Charles Russell; Lovell White Durrant.

No mutuality in bank deposit

Regina v Morris (Clarence Barrington)

Before Lord Justice Potter, Mrs Justice Elsworth and Mr Justice Forbes [Judgment October 22].

Where, on a charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, the victim claimed to have suffered physical pain as a result of the accused's non-physical assault, the case should not go before the jury without psychiatric evidence as to whether such injury, while not directly inflicted, could none the less have been caused by the accused's conduct.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by Clarence Barrington Morris against his conviction in September 1996 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Butler, QC and a jury) of one offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, for which he was sentenced to five years imprisonment, and one offence of common assault for which he was sentenced to a concurrent term of six months.

Mr Barry Kogan, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Timothy Banks for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER, giving the judgment of the court, said that according to the evidence of the victim, she had been "stalked" by the appellant and, as a result, had suffered pains in her joints and abdomen, sleeplessness, tension and fear of being alone. Her general practitioner had prescribed medication to help her sleep.

Before the trial commenced, a joint application was made by prosecution and defence for an adjournment to obtain expert psychiatric evidence, following *R v Chan-Fook* (1994) 1 WLR 845, because her symptoms did not appear to be physically based.

The judge refused the application because he thought the victim was capable of giving an account of her symptoms which, if the jury accepted them, could amount to actual bodily harm. The judge also refused a later submission of no case to answer and the appellant was subsequently convicted.

On appeal it was submitted that the judge erred in law in that he left the jury to decide whether the assault occasioned psychiatric injury in the absence of appropriate expert evidence and that he should have followed the decision in *R v Chan-Fook*.

The Court of Appeal in that case was primarily concerned with the broad question whether or not actual bodily harm was capable of including psychiatric injury and held that where psychiatric injury was relied upon as the basis for an allegation of bodily harm, which was not admitted by the defence, expert evidence had to be called by the prosecution.

In the present case, Mr Banks submitted that the victim spoke not only of symptoms of fear and loss of temper but also of headaches, fatigue and aches and pains of a physical nature, which satisfied the time-honoured definition of bodily harm as including any hurt or injury calculated to interfere with the health or comfort of the victim.

In addition, not only were her symptoms corroborated by way of complaint to her general practitioner, but her statement that she experienced them was unchallenged in cross-examination so that the jury was fully entitled to draw the conclusion that her physical pain, while not directly inflicted, was none the less caused by the conduct of the appellant.

Mr Kogan argued that where the pains complained of were not the direct result of physical trauma inflicted on the victim by the offender, psychiatric considerations almost inevitably arose on

the question of causation: first, as to whether the experience suffered by the victim at the hands of the defendant was capable of giving rise to symptoms of the kind complained of by the victim; and second, the likelihood of other factors in the complainant's daily life being responsible for her symptoms which, ex hypothesi, were psychiatric in origin.

Thus, the observations of Lord Justice Hobhouse in *R v Chan-Fook* on the need for expert evidence to prove a psychiatric injury amounting to bodily harm were equally to be applied to the question of causation.

It seemed to their Lordships that, following the decision in *R v Chan-Fook*, in the absence of psychiatric evidence to support the prosecution case that the victim's symptoms, other than pain, amounted to psychological injury and that the pains experienced were the result of the appellant's non-physical assault, the case should not have been allowed to go before the jury.

Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed, the conviction quashed and a retrial ordered.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, London.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the issue was whether the supervisory jurisdiction of the court applied where the

impugned decision was not by the House of Commons itself, or by one of its committees, but by an independent person who had been appointed by Parliament to exercise an investigative function. The question raised was of the relationship between the courts and Parliament. That was a relationship which was central to the constitutional arrangements of the country.

It was clearly established that the courts exercised a self-denying ordinance in relation to interfering with the proceedings of Parliament.

That approach was supported by article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 which provided that "the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament".

The source which resulted in the setting up of a standing committee with responsibilities in relation to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards was *Standards in Public Life* (Cmd 2850+), informally called the Nolan Report.

That report resulted in the setting up of a standing committee with responsibilities in relation to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Lord Nolan recommended, inter alia, that the House should appoint a person of independent standing, who should have a degree of tenure and not be a career member of the House of Commons staff, as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; that the commissioner should have independent discretion to decide whether or not to complain mer-

ited investigation or to initiate an investigation; and that he should be able to send for persons, papers and records, and therefore needed to be supported by the authority of a select committee with the necessary powers.

There was in the Nolan Report itself an analogy drawn between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and another Parliamentary Commissioner, that for administration who was commonly referred to as the Ombudsman.

The argument on behalf of Mr Al Fayed relied on the similarities between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and that of the Ombudsman, and on the decision of the Divisional Court in *R v Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Ex parte Dyer* (1994) 1 WLR 621, where it was held that there was nothing in the Ombudsman's role or the statutory framework within which he operated to take him outside the purview of judicial review.

His Lordship said that there was no doubt that there was a similarity between the two officers. The Ombudsman was not, strictly speaking, an officer of Parliament. He did however have the privileges of such an officer. In addition both officers were subject to the supervision of standing committees of Parliament and both made reports to Parliament.

There was however a significant distinction between the two roles which was critical. The Ombuds-

Power to extend time for statement of claim

Walker and Another v Howard and Another

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Robert Walker [Judgment October 24].

It was perfectly within the discretion of a judge to grant an extension of time for serving a statement of claim even though the limitation period had expired.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal brought by the first defendant, John S. Howard, a partner in the second defendant firm of accountants, KPMG, against the decision of Mr Justice Forbes on December 17, 1996 in the Liverpool District Registry of the Queen's Bench Division, when he allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Robert William Walker and Beryl Ann Walker, against the decision of Deputy District Judge Grossworth to set aside service of the writ and statement of claim.

Mr Richard Jacobs for the defendants; Mr Timothy King, QC, and Mr Adrian Lyon for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE

STAUGHTON said that the plaintiffs alleged that they had been given negligent advice in 1989 and 1990 and that as a consequence they suffered damage on May 10, 1990.

On February 2, 1996 the writ was issued and served on June 21, 1996. On July 4 the defendants gave notice of their intention to defend. The plaintiffs accordingly had 14 days to serve the statement of claim. They failed to do so and their request for a 28-day extension was refused.

The defendants issued a summons to strike out the action. On August 7 the statement was served out of time without leave. The defendants took out a second summons seeking to strike out service of the writ and statement of claim or have them set aside. The deputy judge struck out the proceedings and Mr Justice Forbes restored them.

It was common ground that the writ was not a nullity but merely defective for lack of particularity which could be cured by a statement of claim. The problem in the present case was that the statement of claim was served out of time.

Mr Jacobs accepted that there was no authority directly in point but argued that the position was analogous to amending a statement of claim. If that was not allowed after the expiry of the limitation period so too an extension of time permitting the serving of the statement of claim to cure the irregularity of the writ should not be allowed. He relied on *Ponson v Wood* (1902) 1 QB 394.

However, since the amendment rules of court, particularly Order 20, rule 5, amendments were allowed in certain circumstances although they defeated the defence of limitation.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was important to see if there was any prejudice to the defendants owing to the late introduction of the claim. The writ was served in time absent at the very end of the limitation period. The service of the writ out of time only added a mere six weeks.

Lord Justice Otton delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Travers Smith Braidwaite Hill Dickinson David Campbell, Liverpool.

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Nikkei falls

It's pure Scandinavia

Equities and gilts sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
500	400	400	12	123
500	400	400	12	123
500	400	400	12	123
500	400	400	12	123
500	400	400	12	123

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

BANKS				
1500	1400	1400	24	183
1500	1400	1400	24	183
1500	1400	1400	24	183
1500	1400	1400	24	183
1500	1400	1400	24	183

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
300	280	280	3	156
300	280	280	3	156
300	280	280	3	156
300	280	280	3	156
300	280	280	3	156

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

BUILDING MATERIALS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

CHEMICALS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

DISTRIBUTORS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

HEALTHCARE				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

INSURANCE				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

LEISURE & HOTELS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

MEDIA				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

THE TIMES Portfolio

£1,000 to be won
Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight shares in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, i.e. enter 16 as 16 (the symbol 1/2 means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £1,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Share
1	VTE	Media	10
2	Denby Group	House Gds	10
3	Shire Pharm	Pharmatics	10
4	Capita Group	Sup Serv	10
5	Almeco	Banking	10
6	Whitbread	Breweries	10
7	Telepac	Electronic	10
8	RMC Gp	Med Mats	10
9	Berry Bch Nbl	Oil Fin	10
10	Waddington	Print Pap	10
11	Adia	Electronic	10
12	UB Sports	Oil Fin	10
13	Carles	Oil Fin	10
14	Cusins	Oil & Cons	10
15	Amey	Oil & Cons	10
16	Anglian	Water	10
17	Macfarlane	Print Pap	10
18	Stander (Wm)	Leisure	10
19	Naimi Power	Electric	10
20	Christie Int	Ret Gen	10
21	PSD	Sup Serv	10
22	Davis Service	Sup Serv	10
23	Plannet	Electronic	10
24	South West	Water	10
25	Unichem	Healthcare	10
26	Adson	Media	10
27	Alenda W	Textiles	10
28	BT	Telecomms	10
29	Sage Gp	Sup Serv	10
30	Bass	Breweries	10
31	Burford Bw	Breweries	10
32	Brannan	Insurance	10
33	Sun Life & P	Insurance	10
34	Sims Food	Food Man	10
35	Adrian WS	Sup Serv	10
36	London & Man	Insurance	10
37	Winn Ireland	Electric	10
38	Winn Foods	Food Man	10
39	WAT	Oil & Cons	10
40	Courtd Text	Textiles	10
41	Norfolk	Distib	10
42	EMAP	Media	10
43	Whitbread Sup	Sup Serv	10
44	Towry Law	Oil Fin	10

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Portfolio

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Published in the Sunday Times to within 10,000.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Two winners shared the prize yesterday, each receiving £500. They are: D. Tait, Birmingham; and M. J. Taylor, Warrington.

Winners should contact the company listed on the back of their Portfolio card.

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

PRINTING & PAPER				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

PROPERTY				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

High Low Company Price % CHG % PE

WATER				
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121
100	90	90	3	121

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THE DOLL MEND COMPANY
EST. 1984 **EXTRA** MADE IN U.S.A.

Yachtel Alliance @	78.16	78.16	- 1.43	5.91	European Growth	372.00	383.00	- 1.00	0.14
European @	164.60	164.50	- 2.70	0.08	-@- Account	426.00	429.90	- 7.50	0.14
Eastern @	164.70	164.70	- 4.40		European Income	87.12	102.80	- 8.80	3.94
Int'l Interest @	58.94	58.247	- 0.13	7.33	-@- Account	145.30	154.90	- 1.20	0.94
	58.23	58.231	- 0.37	8.19	General	656.60	719.90	- 8.80	2.27
						1500.00	1510.00	- 10.00	0.67

	1992	1993	% Chg	1994	% Chg	1995	% Chg
Domestic	78,623	78,623	- 1.19	8,071	-	-	-
Export	47,008	47,558	+ 0.13	8,832	-	-	-
Imports	30,724	27,049	- 0.89	-	-	-	-
Net American	270,800	270,800	+ 0.50	-	-	-	-
Net Growth	78,281	78,281	+ 2.32	8,57	-	-	-
Net Index	31,284	31,284	- 0.78	3,05	-	-	-
Index	88,558	88,558	+ 1.27	2,88	-	-	-

Revenue	129.90	129.90	= 1.50	1.48	High Yield Int	167.50	110.25	= 0.50	0.18
Smaller Cos	180.80	180.80	= 0.80	1.08	-- Acorns	126.65	123.50	= 0.00	0.16
Index	104.30	104.30	= 0.10	0.78	Income	223.68	228.00	= 1.70	3.76
Expense Index	25.28	104.20	= 1.79	1.10	-- Acorns	366.30	411.20	= 3.00	3.78
US Index	26.25	25.05	= 0.75	1.10	-- Portfolio	122.76	130.25	= 0.80	0.50
Midcaps	104.90	104.90	= 1.20	1.12	-- Acorns	713.80	148.20	= 1.10	3.51
					Int. Cos	640.25	640.25	= 0.50	0.07

COLONY UNIT TRUST INGRS				-to- Assets			
852 571 500	Outings: 01-652 571 623				615.50	669.90	- 5.40 0.77
				Assets	123.40	138.60	- 15.20
				Assets	123.40	142.30	- 18.90
				New Assets	269.00	287.90	- 18.90
				-to- Assets	269.00	302.10	- 33.10 0.97
				Pacific	71.90	76.65	- 4.75 0.29
				Assets	77.54	82.09	- 4.55 0.19

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2
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1989	72.94	78.54	+ 5.71	1.67
1990	51.75	54.75	+ 3.01	5.80

OYDYS BK UNIT 1ST MEPS LTD				
Syndic: 01634 834 330 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Invest	475.50	503.90	+ 2.10	1.93
Accum	1156.00	1230.60	+ 10.00	1.93

METROPOLITAN UT MURS LTD				
01707 582 233				
Emerg/prop Pkgs	174.16	185.28	+ 3.93	8.13
Dividends	78.79	91.91	+ 1.61	1.36

[illegible]

Account	166.70	175.50	-	2.10	0.08	445- Account	332.32	377.40	-	0.89	2.00
Bank Prod	731.40	770.10	-	5.80	0.29	British Int	124.39	130.20	-	2.00	2.00
Account	770.20	819.58	-	5.80	0.29	Corp Account	152.00	153.20	-	2.40	2.80
Int Interest Inc	1036.39	1120.30	-	0.54	0.68	Cup Bond Inc	103.33	107.00	-	0.40	6.22
High Interest Acc	121.70	126.22	-	0.80	0.68	do- Account	112.50	117.00	-	0.46	6.22
Insurance Inc #	120.50	127.90	-	0.90	5.40	East High Inc	81.61	85.46	-	0.80	5.88
Investment Acc #	127.20	145.00	-	1.00	5.40	do- Accounts #	186.39	194.90	-	1.80	5.88
						4205- Account	94.93	99.82	-	1.46	1.84

Share Inc	659.70	11.50	- 6.80	3.11	FTSE 100 Ind	94.36	86.82	- 1.92	1.94
Share Acc of	1949.00	216.00	- 20.00	3.11	FTSE 100 Net	78.15	81.83	- 1.23	1.94
Share Port	648.40	692.00	- 1.00	3.98	GRI & Prod Ind	58.71	61.08	- 0.08	6.08
Accounts	761.20	1008.00	- 1.00	3.98	-the Accounts	167.10	235.10	- 0.30	6.08
Accounts	72.25	76.87	- 0.95		High Yield	275.90	288.90	- 3.00	5.88
Accounts	72.50	77.13	- 0.98		-the Accounts	611.20	648.90	- 0.90	5.88
Accounts	73.47	78.17	- 0.57	1.21	Hoschickel Harare	109.40	109.90	- 1.50	1.64

Accoun	68.32	91.84	- 0.67	1.21	Monies	376.50	367.40	- 5.80	3.81
Inventory Acc.	111.40	116.60	.	2.67	o Accoun #	523.10	165.60	-13.70	3.81
Inventory Exp	295.80	344.70	- 0.30	0.92	Money Market UT	49.30	49.371	+ 0.071	6.30
Accoun	342.40	364.20	- 0.38	0.62	o Accoun	87.45	87.471	+ 0.02	6.30
San Co Res	269.60	243.20	- 1.40	.	Monthly Income	111.00	116.261	- 1.40	4.02
Accoun	332.30	348.20	- 1.50	.	Mortgag Personal Pension Unit Trust				
Accoun	332.30	348.20	- 1.50	.	Bolton	150.00	168.70	- 2.50	1.86

Net Sales	189.08	178.88	- 5.36	0.77	European Growth	105.40	175.30	+ 7.40	
Accounts	177.08	188.88	- 5.20	0.77	Kals & Fried	111.50	118.26	- 0.26	6.94
First Acc	112.50	118.50	- 0.20	1.76	Income	126.50	133.50	- 3.40	3.87
Profit 2/10/98 †	169.20				Japan Growth	39.52	35.53	- 0.68	
As Cos Wac	563.30	582.50	+ 0.80	1.95	Managers	91.48	97.39	- 1.10	2.46
Acct	777.00	817.50	+ 1.10	1.95	Money Market	161.30	167.40	+ 0.19	5.08
Fin Gm	191.80	203.50	- 1.70	2.29	North America	120.70	140.50	- 0.70	

Midwest FSNDS Unit Base			
Baldish	142.70	152.80	- 2.50 1.96
Farmington Growth	155.10	164.40	+ 1.50
GAR & Pland Int	194.16	170.40	- 0.70 5.96
Increase	124.20	132.10	- 1.80 3.83
Jagdish Growth	33.60	35.62	- 0.50
Mowand	63.29	62.92	- 4.69 2.47

1982-83	105.05	115.56	+ 0.03	0.30
Spain	124.19	133.25	+ 1.14	2.30
Italy	84.91	91.10	+ 0.67	4.30
France	73.29	78.83	+ 0.91	0.40
UK	39.53	42.29	+ 1.04	..
Germany	44.21	46.22	+ 0.21	..
Japan	52.52	55.22	+ 0.23	..
USSR	32.33	38.96	+ 0.03	5.08
North American	118.50	125.10	- 0.60	..
Atlantic European Free Trade	141.20	150.20	+ 2.70	1.98
European Growth	151.50	162.60	+ 1.30	..
Salt & Fresh fish	30.29	39.46	+ 0.10	5.96

NEW ISSUES	01.01	05.04	- 1.00	1.10
U.S. SECURITIES				
1000 Street Unit (Cg. 01245 300 300)				
U.S. General	609.80	643.90	+ 0.81	0.32
Aspen	764.70	807.40	+ 1.09	0.32
Intecore	120.70	128.40	- 1.70	3.83
Japan Growth	34.40	35.45	- 0.02	
Morgan	98.04	95.79	- 1.07	2.48
Mutual Market	84.28	89.77	+ 0.02	5.11
North American	133.03	141.08	- 0.60	

Expendy	790.40	835.00	- 0.70	0.18
Alcohol	914.90	966.70	- 0.80	0.16
In Smith Cos.	186.30	198.00	- 2.10	
Account	126.50	208.20	- 2.10	
Amalgam	183.00	194.40	- 1.90	2.99
Account	226.10	248.70	- 2.40	2.99
Account	1946.90	1996.90	- 14.80	2.32

Accruals	1993.50	1993.50	-19.00	2.77	UK Equity	251.50	250.50	-2.50	7.91
Accruals	1279.50	1283.50	-14.00	2.77	UK Equity Inc	251.50	267.50	-2.50	3.84
Accruals	901.50	912.50	-11.00	5.35	Dr. Accrual	356.50	375.50	-4.00	3.84
Accruals	4977.00	5982.00	-98.10	5.35	UK Growth Inc	147.50	158.10	-2.20	3.05
Accruals	379.00	401.00	-5.10	1.12	dr- Accrual	253.50	164.00	-2.30	3.05
Accruals	962.50	989.00	-7.00	1.12	UK Ind. Prod. Inc	124.50	228.00	-2.50	2.72
Accruals	1247.30	1375.00	-21.20	2.44	dr- Accrual	283.50	302.70	-4.50	2.72

Accounts	1410.70	1497.80	-22.90	2.44	US Eng and Tech Inc	345.00	354.00	+ 0.50	0.96
Interest Bond	28.15	28.27	- 0.06	0.50		45.15	47.63	+ 1.46	.
Interest	50.03	52.90	- 0.80	4.58	Japan Tractor	138.20	145.30	+ 1.70	0.45
Accounts	265.70	240.28	+ 4.40	4.58	Johns Tractor	149.20	149.30	- 0.10	1.63
By Increase	295.10	307.49	- 2.76	1.54	Mingal Photo Inc	203.40	216.90	- 2.08	1.63
Accounts	532.50	561.46	- 5.40	5.14	Mingal Photo Ate	225.68	240.18	- 2.00	1.63
	396.25	414.49	- 14.49		Deposit Inc	100.05	100.05	+ 0.02	0.95
						167.20	165.80	+ 4.68	

Net Income	763.20	746.40	-16.80	0.02	Company	246.27	209.67	-36.60	-1.39
Accounts	974.97	963.47	-11.50	0.09	Equities	321.50	240.80	-80.70	-2.37
Dividend #	69.10	95.38	-1.30	3.45	High Income	20.23	21.53	-1.30	10.00
Accounts #	118.01	125.53	-1.70	3.45	Japan Growth	69.64	75.91	-6.27	1.83

هكذا منار

[illegible]

league

All bawd and Bard in the silly season

It is quite an achievement to make the Reduced Shakespeare Company, which specialises in being very silly about the Bard, look like a concave of OMs or the high table at All Souls, or a concave of OMs on the high table at All Souls; but this curious import from Sydney has brought it off. They tell me that *The Popular Mechanicals* became a cult Down Under. Well, maybe. Think of Barry Humphries's Sir Les Patterson at the age of 12 or so, and you have the piece's natural audience.

Let me not be unkind. Silliness can be sweet, and sometimes is so here. Moreover, why should Tom Stoppard have sole rights to plays about the offstage life of Shakespearean characters? It might be fun to track the witches in *Macbeth* as they gazed about Scotland killing swine and avenging themselves on rump-fed ronyons. A day in the life of the Mantuan apothecary would be an interesting challenge for a socially conscious dramatist. There is no reason why (to quote the billing in the programme) Keith Robinson, William Shakespeare and Tony Taylor should not collaborate on a piece about the rude mechanicals as they prepare to put on *Pyramus and Thisbe*.

Flute, Bottom et al assemble in a curious mix of ruffs, pyjama tops and timeless whatnots. They sing a mildly insulting song about theatre audiences and launch into bits of cod Bard. The level of humour is initially signalled by "this apartment hath a pleasant seat". "I fell in love with the willow cabin at the gate". It then proceeds to decline. There are feeble jokes involving the ambiguity of the word "without" and vaguely scatological ones

The Popular Mechanicals Arts

about Bottom's name: an incomprehensible play-within-a-play which ends with Keith Robinson's Quince farting a lot; and a defiantly unfunny comedy turn involving Snout and Smug.

We learn little or nothing about the private lives of these Athenian toilers. Only when authentic snatches of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* intrude, and Simon Walter's Bottom is able to swagger and boast as the Bard wanted, do we get any sense of their individuality.

Myself, I chuckled three times: once, when someone asks why they have to rehearse in a wood instead of "in the local hall where there's a tea-urn"; again when the appearance of the ass Bottom is greeted with a gasp of four-letter horror; yet again, when Cal McCrystal's Thisbe praises the dead Pyramus for having eyes as green as leeks.

But the last line comes from Shakespeare himself, as of course does the *Pyramus* play itself. As staged by Geoffrey Rush, this comes with a Thisbe so nervous she throws up and slides about in her vomit, and a Wall whose "chink" and "hole" is not between his fingers but between his legs. Sir Les would have loved it, but only when he was very small, very drunk or both.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Three laughs a minute: the Australian company responsible for *The Popular Mechanicals* drag Shakespeare resolutely downmarket as they put on *Pyramus and Thisbe*

James Barrie's once famous play now belongs in the English theatre's attic, along with the dozens of others that rep theatres regularly did, and that now not even Radio 4 thinks of giving airtime to. Radio is probably the only medium where the play's thin characterisation and pervasive barminess could find, in the listener's imagination, some blood to keep it going.

In the theatre it looks decidedly anaemic, particularly when given in matinee performances that cannot use the full depth of the stage. The stage is never very deep anyway at this brave and currently embattled venue, truly fighting for its very future against the threat-

Feeling good and barmy

ened withdrawal of its core funding.

At the same time, in a perverse sort of way, catching up with this weird old piece of feel-good theatre gives some satisfaction, and because Barrie was vampire-like in his knowledge of where to find the emotional artery, bless me if the scene between the father and his might-have-been daughter did not exercise the tear-ducts for a while.

Eight people have been staying in the country with Lob, an odd creature whose sinister smiles

Dear Britus King's Head, N1

would send anyone who wasn't in a play by Barrie back to town by the first available vehicle. In the ridiculous opening scene we soon guess that he is Puck grown old, because one of the guests helpfully tells us that this is exactly what he looks like, and perhaps this is how Ken Parry is playing him, like Humpty Dumpty with lots of teeth.

In the second act almost everyone goes into a magic wood — it is midsummer night — where they enjoy a second chance at life, discovering how they would have fared if other choices had been made. The restless young man unhappily married to A and declaring his love for B now finds that he is married to B and in love with A. And so forth. This is where Mark Eden's unsuccessful painter spends a blissful hour with the teenage daughter he never had, a scene milked by Barrie for every drop of

pathos yet honestly played by Eden and the fresh and delightful Nicola Ball.

The cast, and the women in particular, invest their roles as A, B and the others with credible conviction, but I see that Stephanie Sinclair Crawford has adapted the play as well as directing it. Since the three acts are over in one hour 40 minutes, chunks of the play must have been torn out, possibly for very good reason (ie, unspeakable in 1997), but this has made some scenes fearfully cursory. Everyone wastes no time in leaping to the point, but the points they land on are very small.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Angered by a match made in hell

John B. Keane's "Passionate Irish Tale" as the programme puts it. It makes me aware that one can respect the staging of a play, as well as admire the quality of its actors and notice good features of the writing, yet take a real dislike to it all.

Written in 1959 and revised for Dublin's Abbey Theatre revival in 1985, Keane tells of a schoolgirl, Sive, illegitimate and orphaned, brought up in rural Ireland by her uncle and aunt. A rich farmer wants to marry her, offers the aunt £200 (with a further £100 to the matchmaker), and the child is prepared for marriage to this heavy, puffing, mean, grubby-minded 70-year-old. The scene is set for a desperate barefoot flight across the bog.

Keane's early plays are said to catch Old Ireland on the cusp of turning into Prosperous Ireland, where new notions of personal liberty replace peasant obedience to tradition. Ben Barnes says as much in a programme note, and it is Barnes who began the revival and re-evaluation of Keane's work, and who directs

Sive Palace, Watford

this production, transferring to London's Tricycle next month.

I do not agree that the play catches this. It is true that one of the pair of travelling tinkers — the only decent adults in the play — foretells a future when the owners of farming acres will rule the land, but this little speech, which might even be a denunciation, has the feel of being tacked on. Young Sive's refusal to fear the puka (ghost) on the dark road hardly convinces as a sign of mental emancipation.

The cusp, so it seems to me, is one that has been crossed by the audience, possibly even the audience back in 1959, who could no longer accept the propriety (assuming they once did) of mating 17 and 70 in exchange for cash. A sense that the play is pandering to this outrage is what fuels my dislike for it. Keane manipulates us. He

excludes alternative courses of action by artificially isolating Sive (Catherine Walker) and her family from a community often referred to but playing no part. Schoolfriends, nurse, priest, neighbours — we never hear their observations on the mismatch. Apart from the tinkers we have only the sinister matchmaker (Simon O'Gorman), whose perceptions on love are a brief bright moment, but who limps, and thus is clearly devilish.

Marion O'Dwyer's Mens, the aunt, stamping her way between oven, milk churn and potato sack, is a strong performance of venom, frustration and greed, though the background to the first two of these qualities is never clear. Barnes's direction is brilliant of the telling details of rural living, and is fascinating in this respect, recording a land now departing into memory; but the evening left me angered by the play rather than by the behaviour attacked by it.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Catherine Walker (Sive) and Marion O'Dwyer (Mens)

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: A Messiah worth waiting for

CHORAL

Hilary Finch

■ **HANDEL** *Messiah*. Gabrieli Consort/McCreesh. Archiv 453 464-2 *** £29.99. WHO needs another *Messiah*? Well, we all do if it's anything like this thrilling new recording from Paul McCreesh and his Gabrieli Consort and Players. Victorian sentimentality, period-instrument precision and late 20th-century super-cool are all stripped away with a characteristic blowtorch of imagination and daring.

McCreesh's dynamic relationship of recitatives to arias and the sheer energy of verbal inflection and enunciation are, at last and uniquely, in the spirit of that early 18th-century evangelical tradition of Handel's "libertist", the theologically passionate Charles Jennens. And the meticulous articulation of the instrumental playing fuses with the bright rhythmic definition of the chorus to give a performance of deep shadows and

of often blinding light. Even the more daring extremes of ornamentation and tempo convince. The tenor Charles Daniels caresses his *Comfort ye*, only to tear away to exalt every Valley in sight. Bass Neal Davies shakes the Heavens and the Earth with a vocal quake of at least ten on the Richter scale; and soprano Susan Grillon's refiner's fire, kindled by the strings, positively scalds. There are sudden moments, too, of isolation in space and time: chasms of rebuke and rejection all the more awe-inspiring in the context of this fiery and fearless production.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **ZEMLINSKY** *Symphony in D Minor*. Waldesgras. Frühlingssymphonie. Maiblumen blühen überall. Mathis/Hermann/North German RSO/Beaumont. Capriccio 10 740 *** £14.49. TEACHER and brother-in-law of Schoenberg though he was, Alexander Zemlinsky never abandoned the voluptuous tonal style they shared at the turn of the century. That style is back in favour today, and gradually Zemlinsky's works are getting the recognition they deserve.

The *Symphony in D Minor* is a student work, but a very accomplished one. The influence of Brahms is never far away, though Bruckner and Mahler also come to mind in the solemn Adagio, while the Scherzo is an engagingly extroverted romp. Occasional touches of gaucherie — possibly exacerbated by a performance more notable for its vigour than its refinement — are amply compensated by the freshness of invention.

The conductor, Antony Beaumont, has edited both the *Symphony* (the last movement was lost until recently) and the orchestral arrangement of *Maiblumen blühen überall*. The latter is a setting for string sextet of a poem by Richard Dehmel — rather like Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*, in fact, to which it bears a flattering resemblance.

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Big Sur rendered

JAZZ

Charles Lloyd Quartet
Festival Hall

ANYONE unaware of saxophonist Charles Lloyd's extended 1970s sojourn at Big Sur, where he would play his flute in the woods, watch the waves and meditate, might have guessed at it courtesy of clues both sartorial — he took the stage in loose-fitting black clothes and Nehru cap — and musical: his is one of the most contemplative, rapturous tenor sounds since John Coltrane. He is also entirely silent on the stand — no band-member introductions, no assurances that he is delighted to be in London — letting his music speak for him.

Such seriousness bordering on asceticism, such concentration on the essentials of music-making, render Lloyd a natural for his current record company, ECM, and the quality of the five albums he has made for the label since his much-vaunted comeback in the late 1980s suggests that he has found a sympathetic artistic environment in the company's Rainbow Studio in Oslo.

The crucial element in his current Indian summer, however, is — appropriately enough for a man instrumental in furthering the careers of Keith Jarrett and Michel Petrucci — the Swedish pianist Bobo Stenson.

It would be an oversimplification to dub the lyrical, elegant Stenson the McCoy Tyner to Lloyd's Coltrane, but there were moments during the more rhapsodic pieces played by Lloyd's quartet when Tyner, waiting backstage to perform his half of the concert, might have been forgiven a frisson of nostalgia. The earnest, questing tenor tone and the almost telepathic interplay with the rhythm section (bassist Jeff Littleton and drummer Billy Hart) did bring the classic Coltrane quartet to mind, as did Lloyd's employment of an Eastern element — a Tibetan oboe — for the band's closing piece.

As he often points out, however, many of Lloyd's first musical experiences were with the blues bands of such figures as Howlin' Wolf, B. B. King and Bobby Bland, so it was no surprise to find his quartet quietly exploring the 12-bar form, fronted initially by Lloyd's warbling tenor, and subsequently by his surprisingly breathy flute. Even in blues mode, though, instead of returning to his Memphis roots, Lloyd stayed firmly — and triumphantly — on the beach at Big Sur.

CHRIS PARKER

Vested interest

POP

Echobelly
UEA, Norwich

THE fates have not been kind to Echobelly. In 1994, reviews of their debut album bracketed them with those other promising debutants, Oasis. But since their second record, a year later, there have been expensive court cases, a change of record company and apparently acrimonious splits. It is only this week that they have broken their silence with the release of *Lustra*.

It is perhaps not surprising that the accompanying tour has an air of determined defiance about it. As the show begins, an ominous throbbing bass line, as piercing shafts of light rake across the audience, the band emerge like aliens in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, visitors from the planet Britpop. Standing in the centre, dressed ready for battle in white vest and combat trousers, is singer Sonya Aurora Madan.

Resembling a dark-skinned cross between Lulu and Audrey Hepburn, Madan is the focus of everyone's attention, the recipient of endless decla-

rations of love from her fans. The rest of the band fade anonymously into the background, apart that is, from Madan's co-writer, guitarist Glenn Johansson, who, bent almost double, sets the pace and decorates the tunes.

In keeping with the defiant spirit, the bulk of the set is taken from the new album. The unfamiliarity of the tunes does Echobelly no favours, especially when — as with *Bulldog Baby* — Madan's voice struggles against a barrage of noise. And it is noticeable that the recent songs lack the bounce and bite of the older ones.

There are exceptions, of course. *I'm No Saint* is a fine anthem, and *Bleed*, performed by Madan and Johansson alone, evokes an elegant sense of pained regret. But the two singles *The World Is Flat* and *Here Comes The Big Rush* seem pallid when played against the wonderful *Insomniac* from 1994. Madan's voice squeaks and swoops through the chorus, recapturing a sense of exhilaration and playfulness that seems to have been lost.

What has not been mislaid, however, is Madan's charismatic presence. She may say little and move less, but as she points and gestures in mock mime, as her arms carve patterns in the air and as light catches the glitter on her face, it is hard to look away.

JOHN STREET

Folies bergères

OPERA

La fedeltà premiata
Guildhall School

FIDELITY REWARDED is one of Haydn's best comic operas. The goddess Diana demands the annual sacrifice of a pair of faithful lovers to the local monster, so the shepherds and shepherdesses must ensure that no one suspects them of fidelity. The seeds of Offenbach, of Gilbertian topsy-turvydom, were there in the 18th century.

Jamie Hayes's production for the GSMD does the piece no great harm by setting the action amid the Edwardian hunting set; many of the jokes may arise from anachronisms, but so they doubtless did at Esterháza in 1781, and since Haydn was in the business of purveying country-house opera, there is no point in getting stuffy about purity of comic style. But his straitlaced sporting Bishop could not quite match the entrancingly corrupt High Priest of the original, crisply and pointedly though the baritone Mark Stone sang the role.

And since he tended to write

instrumentally rather than vocally for his soloists, Haydn isn't easy to sing — or play, for that matter. The simpler music lingers on the page, the trickier it is to articulate, and Clive Timms's account of the score was notable for spirit rather than finesse, though the spirit in the two near-Mozartian finales was truly infectious. And the bewilderingly international cast made a good fist of the singing while projecting Timms's new English version in purest translatores with appropriate, if rash, fidelity.

The Malaysian tenor David Quah fielded sweet tone and admirable security as the most faithful of the shepherds, and the Australian Natalie Christie was equally secure and showed an innate sense of comedy as the scariest shepherdess. Finnur Bjarnason, from Iceland, was the amorous Count Ferruchetto, a good light baritone but not altogether sure where he was, and Gillian McIlwraith bravely fought laryngitis as the double-monikered heroine, giving great promise not least with her elegant presence. Catherine Hegarty (from Co Clare) sounded like a Sieglinde in embryo in Diana's few lines, while Caroline Childe (Amaranta) and the Catalan Salvador Parron i Conus (Lindoro) worked hard at roles still a bit beyond them.

All in all, good, undemanding fun.

RODNEY MILNES

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Linda di Chamounix
(first performance)
Mark Elder conductor
Mariella Devia, Linda
Principal soprano
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Jewel prised from Crown

From vice
to viceroys:
Jan Morris
relishes an
unbiased
history of the
British in India

This is a wonderful book about the British presence in India, first to last. My guess is that, like the same author's *Rise and Fall of the British Empire* — just as good — it will remain unsurpassed in our generation as a scholarly survey for the educated general reader.

One can make such claims now, because 50 years after the withdrawal from India, which was in essence the end of the Empire itself, the facts are clear, the emotions have waned and mature judgments can be reached. In the past few years we have had several definitive accounts of particular imperial aspects or activities: James has chosen to go for the big picture, the grand sweep, and *Raj* is a superb example of modern narrative history at its bravest.

Brave, because it shirks no issue, pulls no punches and is not frightened by statistics, those fearful instruments of ennui. To call it popular history would demean it, for it is supported by full academic equipment, and has entailed much original research, especially in recently released official documents: but it is rich too in asides and allusions and has all the hallmarks of wide and liberal reading — I noted literary references from Fielding to Larkin, Surtees to Gogol, *Alice in Wonderland* to *Tomb of Naftali*.

I will give away its ending. For better or for worse, James says, the British Raj shaped the Indian sub-continent as it is today — "and on the whole I think it was for the better". The whole long book leads up to that conclusion, but not without innumerable doubts, backslidings and contradictions. It is a terrific story that it tells, by any standards, but is liable to bring out the worst in its readers — for who can fail to cherish some sneaking sympathy for the miscellaneous rascals, opportunists and ad-



High days of the Raj: a painting by Captain E. R. Penrose from *The Graphic* shows a Bombay Staff Corps officer relaxing at home, 1888

venturers who went out to India not for any improving purposes, but for the cash and the fun of it?

James is by no means dismissive of them either, and the happiest part of his book is really the first, describing the amoral series of enterprises by which the East India Company established British supremacy. Actually these were, in system and in style — it was Dupleix, who first aimed at political domination through financial exploitation, and who originally learnt to make the most of Indian collaborators. It is hard to argue a case for the avaricious fighting nabobs, but as figures of historical curiosity they are a delight to read about — private-enterprise imperialists, James calls them, and they have some of the undeniable allure of the buccaners.

This is not, though, what the British Raj was really about. The Raj began when the Company left, having devel-

oped into a kind of enormous quango — and mid-Victorian England brought its evangelical values to the government of the infinitely varied multitude of different races, religions, regimes and intentions that was 19th-century India. Once the Indian Mutiny was over, and the awful retributions that followed it, the nature of the Empire in India was finally settled, and was to remain in fundamentals unchanged to the end. James calls it a "system whose ends were virtuous but best by vice", but sums it up as "fundamentally good-natured".

He assesses the virtues and the vices with an absolute lack of bias. There is no trace of the politically correct to this book. The arrogance, the condescension, the racism, ostentation, the unremitting dogmatism (even in 1846 the major Christian missionary societies had a budget of £425,000) — all are

RAJ
The Making and
Unmaking of
British India
By Lawrence James
Little, Brown, £25
ISBN 0 316 64072 7

deplored indeed, with horrid examples, but properly set against their background. Even Dyer of Amritsar is not condemned out of hand, and when in 1946 soldiers under British command perpetrated another, smaller massacre, James allows that it saved many innocent lives. Mountbatten gets little sympathy from this remembrance — "he had reverted to that combination of dissembling and coercion which had prevailed in the time of Clive"; on the other hand, Wavell is rehabilitated as "probably India's most underestimated Viceroy". Certainly what emerges most forcibly from the tale is

the simply appalling mess from which the last few Viceroys tried to extricate the Raj. It is hard to imagine a more terrible fief than India in the 1940s. The Japanese were at the gates, the Germans might well be sweeping in from the West, Muslims and Hindus were already at each others' throats. Gandhi had instigated his Quit India movement, there were thousands upon thousands of political prisoners, fearful famine ravaged Bengal, nationalist agitators of many kinds were active all over the place, the Indian Navy nurtured imperial prestige was fatally damaged by the surrender of Singapore, the Indian Civil Service was losing morale, the British soldiers in India only wanted to go home, poor Wavell himself thought the task beyond him and Mountbatten braced it out with methods so devious that, as Field-Marshal Lord Templer said, if he swallowed a nail he would spit a horseshoe.

It all ended, of course, in tragedy leavened with triumph. Hundreds of thousands of Indians and Pakistanis lost their lives in the partition of India, but miraculously history was to save much of what the later imperialists liked to see as the purposes of the Raj — standards of government, codes of law, economic systems, ideas of fairness and tolerance. It is all too easy to sentimentalise the heritage of the British in India, which as recent events have shown generally means more to the British than to the Indians, but Lawrence James never does that. He tells the story straight, and he hopes (so he says at the end) that it will "make both Britons and Indians look again at their common past without shame or recrimination". It is a noble intention, nobly executed.

Jan Morris's latest book, *Fifty Years of Europe: An Album* is published by Viking, priced £20.

After all, they told you so

Derwent May

**THE OXFORD
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OF PHRASE,
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LITERARY
QUOTATIONS**
Edited by Peter Kemp
Oxford, £17.99
ISBN 0 19 860056 9

ONCE upon a time people used to like garnishing their conversation or their writings with literary quotations, showing that they had a well-stocked mind. Nowadays most people are more uneasy about doing it, not only because it smacks of showing-off, but also because it raises the suspicion that one has simply looked up a dictionary of quotations. When I use a quotation in something I write, I always have the uncomfortable feeling that somewhere it has a little oval label on it like an apple, showing where it came from.

Nevertheless, Oxford University Press has just brought out two new dictionaries of quotations and both of them are very enjoyable and useful. The dictionary of "phrase, saying and quotation" is a new concept. It is arranged under topics such as "kissing" or "knowledge", but under "kissing" it gives not only Browning's chilling "What of soul was left, I wonder, when the kissing had to stop", and Chico Marx's "I wasn't kissing her, I was just whispering in her mouth" when caught by his wife with a chorus girl, but also the saying "When the gorse is out of bloom, kissing's out of fashion". (Gorse, of course, flowers all the year round.)

The inclusion of these phrases and sayings is what gives the book its special character. "Sent to Coventry", for instance, appears to date from a reference in Clarendon's *History of the Revolution* to Puritans killing some Royalist prisoners and sending others to Coventry.

The quotations, on the other hand, are in many cases not quite quotations, if we mean by that memorable remarks that knock around in people's heads, without them always quite knowing where they come from. This dictionary also tries, so to speak, to create quotations, by including remarks that might be worth remembering but that few people remember yet. The press has even got an "Oxford Quotations Reading Programme", which monitors books and the media and hunts out "new quotations". It seems rather like forging bank notes, but it must be said they have come up with some good ones, such as Woody Allen's "I recently turned 60. Practically a third

of my life is over", or A.J. Ayer's "Why should you mind being wrong if someone can show you that you are?"

The other new dictionary, of "literary quotations", is even more of an anthology of good remarks than a dictionary proper, because few people will have heard of most of the entries and will therefore not be looking them up. However, it, too, is an enterprising and very readable book.

IN THE first section we find Graham Greene wondering, in a letter to his brother Hugh, "Is this fame?", when he learns that a "new shade for knickers and nightdresses has been named Brighton Rock".

The second section, which consists of comments on writers by other writers, will probably be most read, since most of the comments are so bitchy. Coleridge is about the only one whom no one can say a word against. Both of these dictionaries include F.R. Leavis's terse observation on the main characteristic of T.S. Eliot's poetry: "Self-contempt, well-grounded". But there are also plenty of looser remarks in both books, expressive of the personality of the speaker or writer (such as Zsa Zsa Gabor's "I never hated a man enough to give him his diamonds back") but not intrinsically remarkable. That is what distinguishes these books from the regular Oxford or Penguin quotation dictionaries, where you are overwhelmed by the brilliance of the entries.

However, on this point we can adduce another "new quotation", from James Fenton: "Windbags can be right. Aphorisms can be wrong. It is a tough world."

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FRANZ KAFKA
The Trial



ARTHUR MILLER
Death of a Salesman

LEFT: Josef K is on trial for his very existence, arrested without having done anything wrong
ABOVE: This novel questions the American consumer dream and is a classic study of failure



CHANGING TIMES

Heroism and heartbreak

R. W. Johnson on the problem
that Mandela could not solve

Martin Meredith's biography of Nelson Mandela is, oddly, the first satisfactory full-length study of one of the icons of our age. It is also considerably better than the syrupy hagiography into which too many portraits of Mandela sink. Meredith is, for example, fairly tough about Mandela's failures as a working President — the often autocratic style, the covering up of corrupt colleagues, the preference for party loyalty over accountability and open government: it was absurd to imagine one could pluck the man from jail and that he would learn the craft of government in his late 70s. At the end of the day, of

NELSON MANDELA
A Biography
By Martin Meredith
Hamish Hamilton, £20
ISBN 0 241 1268 8
KATIZA'S JOURNEY
Beneath the surface of
South Africa's Shame
By Fred Bridgeland
Hamish Hamilton, £16.99
ISBN 0 333 7272 1

course, any verdict on Mandela has to be massively positive simply because he rose so majestically to the two great moral challenges of his life — he showed unrelenting courage in the face of 28 years in jail and then he chose national reconciliation rather than revenge when he finally emerged from his ordeal. The moral strength of those decisions has often occluded a proper picture of the man in the round, a failing which Meredith, in his lengthy study, has striven to avoid.

The story of Mandela is, inevitably, the story of the ANC and although Meredith's research has been commendable throughout, it is also here that his account is vulnerable for he has relied almost exclusively on interviews with white communists so that the gloss on the story — which has become very much the conventional wisdom — is accepted rather too easily. Thus the account of how the ANC's Freedom Charter was drawn up in 1955 takes seriously the notion that it was laboriously put together by sifting all the thousands of submissions



The Mandelas a day after his release from prison in 1990

made by groups all over the country when actually many of the groups were merely fronts, invented by the party for the purpose. Ultimately the party simply drew the charter up and pushed it through without even the ANC leader, Albert Lutuli, having had sight of it.

Even more striking is that the question of how Mandela actually became the ANC leader is delicately glossed over. The truth would appear to be that the Communist Party decided to push the moderate Lutuli aside and use the turn towards armed struggle as a sort of internal coup within which to push Mandela forward as his de facto replacement. This in turn raises the murky question of Mandela's exact relationship to the party,

a subject not best dealt with simply quoting court statements at the time. All one can say is that within the party at the time, Mandela was always cast as "one of ours" and that the party was then disappointed when he drifted from it again. The fact is that Meredith's interlocutors had many delicate silences to observe about this period and Meredith does not seem to have penetrated beyond a fairly surface level.

The saddest, indeed most heartrending part of Mandela's saga is the way he strolled from jail into the sunlight holding hands with Winnie, knowing full well there was much wrong about her, but determined to smooth things over and bring her back within the realm of civility.

Even when she went on trial he defended her — but was then, by a hundred indefatigable incidents, forced to admit she was a monster. "Ever since I came back from jail," he told the divorce court, "not once has she ever entered the bedroom whilst I was awake. I was the loneliest man during the period I stayed with her."

Fred Bridgeland's book attempts to bring the Winnie saga up to date, which is shorthand for saying that he lays forth the evidence, suggesting her involvement in eight murders and the way in which her notoriety has consistently caused the authorities of every kind — not just the ANC but the police and the courts, both under apartheid and now — to balk at the thought of sending her to jail.

Most attention inevitably centres on the murder of 14-year-old Stompie Seake but the fact is, as anyone who traces even the public record of Winnie's career has to be aware, by the time she was a teenager she had a reputation for beating up other children and that other allegations of her having administered savage beatings to children have pursued her down the years. Probably the whole idea of sending her to jail is wrong: she is obviously a deeply disturbed woman who should be compulsorily receiving treatment.

Bridgeland's book is essential reading. But it has deeply discomfited the South African press which, nervously watching Winnie's bid for the ANC deputy presidency, has decided that it would be better to draw a veil over the whole matter. Bridgeland is accordingly reviled for being "right-wing", for having described the house that Winnie lived in as having a tiled roof when actually it had a tin roof and other such irrelevances.

Nobody wants to discuss or take on board the damning and well-supported case he makes. In her words, the South African media have now joined the judges, the police and the ANC in a continuing Winnie cover-up, hoping that they too can thus move things over. This is not merely disgraceful with Winnie, as the President can tell them, it simply never works.

In consulting rooms from Imperial Rome to Harley Street, physicians have remained the same breed, Thomas Stuttaford finds

Reader, heal thyself

THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO MANKIND
A Medical History
By Roy Porter
HarperCollins, £24.99
ISBN 0 00 21573 1

Christmas usually means little, in commercial terms, to the publishers of medical textbooks, but it cannot be chance that *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind*, A Medical History by Professor Roy Porter has been released in time for the Christmas market. It has popular appeal, for although its 830 pages cover medicine from gallstones in Ancient Egypt to AIDS, BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in late 20th-century Britain, it is not written in a pedantic, heavy style. Its natural habitat is not beside *The Oxford Textbook of Medicine*, Gray's *Anatomy* and *Martindale's Pharmacopoeia*, essential reference books on every doctor's shelf. Rather it is a bedside book which can be guaranteed to interest, educate and soothe the most disturbed insomniac.

The book is amusingly and in some places even raucously written. Porter's role as a commentator has not detracted from historical detail, as the anecdotal style with which he describes the intricacies of medical practice throughout the ages makes it blend seamlessly with his analyses of social conditions.

Although doctors and patients who have lived and worked through the medical revolution of the post-antibiotic

era, and all the other changes of the past 50 years, may find this book particularly fascinating, it also makes interesting reading to those who have no previous specialised knowledge in either history or medicine. *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind* is as much a gigantic essay on medicine as it is a textbook and is particularly effective in revealing the changes in medicine over the past 150 years, together with the social and political changes which first prompted them.

Early modern times brought Harvey's and other brilliant breakthroughs in anatomy and physiology, but achievements proved more impressive on paper than in bedside practice. The war against death stalled, and to make matters worse, epidemics

raided down on Europe in the decades around 1700 and mortality rates soared. Porter discusses the medical approach to the disasters which have afflicted humanity, frequently finding the power of doctors wanting, and describes the effect which this lack has had on the pattern of the diseases and its victims.

Readers will find enough detail to make them glad that they live in a time where there are anaesthetics, surgical teams and a sophisticated pharmaceutical industry, but the descriptions are not so gory that the insomniac who seeks relief within its covers will later fear to turn out the lights.

Ancient medical history is a somewhat esoteric subject, but armed with Porter's insight it soon becomes obvious that neither doctors nor patients have changed very much over the past 2,000 years. Galen, for instance, comes alive when we read "... an expert in one-upmanship, Galen couched an inflated sense of self-importance in terms of the dignity of medicine, scolding colleagues as dimwits." In this sentence Porter portrays some of the

characteristics of the smart, social but competent doctor down the ages, whether practising in Harley Street or Imperial Rome. Although Porter admires Galen's expertise in philosophy, anatomy and as a clinician — Galen was the first to bring to light psychosomatic diseases — he is not blind to his human faults.

Those who did Classics at school learnt about "the humours", but not in such intriguing, human detail. They did not tell us, for instance, that it was thought that if women were asorgasmic, their humours would be hopelessly muddled, a belief which accounted for the absence of a puritanical approach to medicine for centuries. The medical textbook of Pope John XXI, for instance, includes prescriptions to encourage fertility, as well as aphrodisiacs and contraceptives.

Porter is particularly stimulating when writing on the history of mental disease, the treatment of mental patients, apart from those who were cared for by the Church in the Middle Ages, was part of

general medicine until a hundred years ago. Porter describes the evolution of psychiatry after that date, its interaction with social conditions and the attitudes of the time.

Thirty years ago it was hoped, to quote the eminent British psychiatrist Dr William Sargant (1907-88), that with the advent of the new psychotropic drugs there would be "a release from the shadowland of the asylum and the folly of Freudianism". Drugs, Dr Sargant said, would enable doctors "to cut the cacophony and, he predicted, would have eliminated the problems of mental illness by the 1990s. The mental hospitals have been emptied, the psychotropic drugs are still improving, the fashion for psychoanalysis is waning, but the problem of mental illness has yet to be eliminated.

Whether you are interested in the advent of the stethoscope, opposed, like most advances, by much of the medical hierarchy of the time, the history of yellow fever, the bubonic plague or, closer to home, coronary heart disease, the feminist influence on medi-

cine, drug abuse, childbearing or cancer, this book provides the historic background to these and other medical questions.

The essential background of medicine never changes. There have always been people who can do nothing without consulting their physicians, like the "effete Greeks", whereas others are like the Romans, wary of doctors and scornful of luxury as exemplified by the fashionable Greek physician, Cicero said: "... It is our duty, my young friends, to resist old age ... to adopt a regime of health; to practise moderate exercise and to take just enough food and drink to restore our strength and not to overburden it."

Porter echoes Cicero: "Longevity means more time for illness and implies that greater effort and resources will need to be devoted to keeping well." Those who want to take Porter's advice should turn to the chapter on cardiology, and thereafter stop smoking and should start to eat wisely, lose weight and, as Cicero advised, take moderate exercise.

The Greatest Benefit to Mankind is a first-class introduction to medical history. Like a well constructed broadsheet, it excites thought and discussion, as well as providing many answers.



Early radiotherapy: from *Medicine: A History of Healing*, edited by Roy Porter, Michael O'Mara, £25

A brutal experiment

Nicholas Bethell charts Russia's long descent into nightmare

This is the story of Russia's great century of suffering. Even at the beginning of it Nicholas II was worse than his two European colleagues. Wilhelm and Franz Joseph, and by the middle of it Lenin and Stalin had built up maybe the worst error ever to have been imposed on a country in modern times. Stalin was matched by Hitler in the stakes of evil, but even the raising of the Red Flag over the Reichstag cannot brighten this unremitting account of a dismal 97 years, three quarters of which were dominated by communism.

A couple of incidents bring a smile to the reader's lips. A Leninist orchestra found a novel way of espousing the principle of equality: they dismissed their conductor. And Nikolai Bukharin, on holiday in Paris, used to turn cartwheels in the street to impress his new young wife. These are the only amusing incidents that I could find in a long book.

The rest is nightmare, the familiar story of the brutal Soviet system, with just a few

A HISTORY OF 20TH-CENTURY RUSSIA
By Nicholas Bethell
Allen Lane, £25
ISBN 0 7139 9146 8

non-Soviet years on either side. It is put together with care and at some length, with details of cereal crops on page 163 and sugar beet on page 401. In fact, although this is a valuable work of reference, it reveals little that we do not already know. The facts come from other books, with not very much taken from the newly opened archive of the Soviet period.

While he makes no apology for the Bolsheviks and their revolution that brought about the 74 inglorious years, the author seems strangely indulgent towards the man who began it all. He writes that Lenin "never intended a single dictatorship party", that he "would surely have been appalled at" the Great Terror, that he "would have been horrified" at it. Then, in a different context, he hints that Lenin had it in mind to exterminate the entire Russian middle class.

"This was not a society capable of being at ease with itself," he tells us. In 1937-38, according to a recent Russian reference work, 681,692 Soviet citizens were executed. And this figure applies only to those whose deaths were recorded in an official entry. It does not include those who perished in the camps or were murdered without trial.

For instance, no one knows how many "kulaks" died during the forced collectiv-



Vision of a phantom partnership: Lenin and Stalin in Gorki, 1922. It bears every sign of having been faked, like most of the photographs in *The Commissar Vanishes* by David King, Canongate, £25

isation of the countryside. Service suggests a figure of four million. There were other arrested more capriciously: Esperantists and philatelists because they had contact with abroad, ornithologists because they used field glasses. "I trust no one, not even myself," Stalin is supposed to have said. "The deaths of the vanquished are necessary for the tranquillity of the victors." He behaved as if that is what he believed.

The days of glory and mass murder did begin to fade as the great experiment drew to its close. In the early 1980s, the author guesses, there were only 10,000 political

or religious prisoners in the Soviet Union. And the Soviet empire was on the march, across Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Angola and into Central America. The West seemed weak. When Poland resisted, the West did nothing to help.

The fortunes of the Cold War changed very suddenly. At midnight on December 31, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist. Another equally worthy, but preferably a more digestible book, is needed to explain why the fall happened so quickly.

Lord Bethell's Spies and Other Secrets was published in 1994 by Viking.

Too close for comfort

GABRIEL JOSIPOVICI
THE ULTIMATE INTIMACY
By Ivan Klima
Translated by A. G. Brain
Granta, £12.99
ISBN 1 85207 069 5

Ivan Klima has written a very old-fashioned novel. It is old-fashioned in its style, in its construction and in its dogged moral seriousness. The narrative moves arbitrarily between third person narrative, past and present tenses, diary entries and letters, the only *raison d'être* for these switches clearly being Klima's desire to make the moral issues raised by the novel as clear as possible. Yet because he is a serious and thoughtful person it has a certain power.

Daniel Vendra is a Protestant pastor in Prague. After "arrestment during the communist era he is now free to preach as he likes, and his deep faith and evident goodness means that he is looked up to by his wife and children, his colleagues and his congregation. On the day his beautiful wife notices a beautiful woman in the congregation. Eventually she gets to talk to him. Like him she is married for the second time but, whereas his first wife died young and he still mourns her pass-

ing, she is divorced and living with her architect husband, her son by her first marriage and two young children. As their intimacy increases he learns that she is part Jewish, lost her grandparents in the Holocaust, is obsessed by death and bitter about the way her husband treats her. Almost imperceptibly he slides into an affair with her. His whole world begins to

crumble and he eventually realises that he cannot go on preaching the Gospel. Yet he feels he has found an intimacy with her he has never had with his second wife and that this is more precious to him than anything else.

Adultery, when seriously treated in fiction, is never just about sex. It is about the conflict between a sense that the adulterous relationship somehow fulfils one as one's marriage can never do and the sense that duplicity is profoundly self-destructive and it is intolerable to inflict suffering on a person one respects. In a great novel of adultery, like Malamud's *Dubin's Lives*, the reader is brought face to face with incompatibilities which must be lived through.

There is no such feeling here. For one thing the woman seems too neurotic and self-obsessed for someone like Daniel to fall in love with: for another there are just too many "serious" moral issues raised: Daniel learns that his father may have been an informer under the old regime; his daughter informs him she is pregnant and is determined to marry her drug-pushing boyfriend; he learns that a house is to be restored to him and wonders if the unexpected appearance of so much money will corrupt him; above all, he is not simply a married man, but a priest. It is all a bit too much.

As a result I will never reread this novel as I reread the works of Malamud and Muriel Spark, where form and content are one and the psychology always rings true. Yet I am glad to have read it, as I am not with the bulk of novels published today, which tend to be all form and no content, all surface and no depth.

Spoken out loud

Ian Brunskill

THE READER
By Bernhard Schlink
Phoenix House, £12.99
ISBN 1 861 59063 6

GERMANS of Bernhard Schlink's generation (he was born in 1944) grew up in the shadow of their parents' crimes. *The Reader*, translated by Carol Brown Janeway, is a vivid evocation of their difficult coming-of-age.

The narrator, Michael Berg, is 15 when the story begins. Taken ill in the street one day, he is helped home by a woman passer-by. On his eventual recovery from what turns out to be hepatitis, his mother dispatches him with flowers to thank his rescuer. His first visit to the woman's flat ends with him running away. His second ends with the two of them in bed.

The woman is 36, a tramconductor called Hanna. The relationship that develops between her and the boy soon acquires a routine. He reads to her from Homer, Lessing, Schiller, *War and Peace*, they shower; they go to bed. The idyl ends, Michael believes, when he fails to acknowledge her one day in the presence of his schoolfriends and, overnight, she disappears.

It is several years before he encounters her again. As a law student he attends the trial of a group of women concentration camp guards, charged, among other atrocities, with leaving a number of prisoners to die in a locked church during an air raid while on a forced march. Hanna is one of the defendants.

As the trial proceeds, she seems determined to discriminate herself as deeply as possible. She allows the other defendants to portray her as the most culpable of all, the one who spurred the rest to greater horrors, improvising small brutalities all her own. As he watches the proceedings, Michael comes to understand why she is anxious to assume this extra guilt, why (perhaps) she joined the SS in the first place, and why she made him read to her.

Schlink is a professor of law and the author of several popular crime novels, which may explain both his forensic rigour and his narrative skills. In *The Reader* he confronts the difficulty of evading (or wholly recovering) his own and his country's past. He explores the conflict between generations, wrestling with collective guilt and individual motivation. He examines the nature of understanding and tests the limits of forgiveness. He does these things with honesty, restraint and a moral precision both unsettling and rare. The result is as compelling as any thriller.

who thanks the author wholeheartedly for his homosexual initiation.

This novella, diverting though it is, reads like pure fantasy, a conflation of erotic and literary aspirations. It insists upon "David Leavitt's" intellectual brilliance, and allows the character not only a host of encounters with young heterosexual men, but, still

Claire Messud

ARKANSAS
By David Leavitt
Little, Brown, £14.99
ISBN 0 316 6163 4

more satisfyingly, an avuncular role in Ben's "coming out". Subservience to human truth is not, it would seem, Leavitt's aim here: rather, the piece seems a glib joke.

The Wooden Anniversary and *Saturn Street* are far less cavalier. *The Wooden Anniversary* is also, alas, a work of less conviction. Its female narrator, Lizzie, records the reunion in Italy of herself and two college friends: Nathan, a gay man from New York, and Celia, whose successful cooking school is the site of their tense gathering. At its centre is a dashing Italian chef named Mauro, with whom Nathan falls in love — to Celia's dismay and despair.

Lizzie exists only as a win-

dow onto this triangle; and its culmination, which ought to devastate, seems contrived because neither the nor, more crucially, Celia, is brought to sufficient life. Only Nathan truly lives on the page.

Saturn Street is Leavitt's finest achievement. Set, like *The Term Paper Artist*, in Los Angeles, and related, again, by a dislocated author — here named Jerry Roth — it explores his relationship with an AIDS patient named Phil Featherstone, to whom Jerry delivers meals.

The novella captures the bland unpoisedness of the two men's lives, Jerry's unspoken desire for his patient, and the jealousy he harbours towards Phil's "buddy", Justin, whom he suspects is really Phil's lover.

The poignancy and peculiarity of lust and of love in the face of terminal illness is conveyed with considerable subtlety, and *Saturn Street* reminds us why David Leavitt — not "David Leavitt" — is an author worth reading.

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Bargains of the week: Visit the Pyramids at new year, pamper yourself at a health hydro or see the bright lights of Seattle



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A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices:

BRITAIN

PLYMOUTH HOE's ugly but perfectly situated Moat House Hotel is offering two-night breaks until December 21 for £69 a person, including dinner, bed and breakfast. Details: 0645 102030.

GATWICK passengers arriving or departing on convenient flights can take advantage of a special Golden-rail weekend rate of £27 a night at Russ Hill Hotel set in nearby countryside. A fortnight's parking is available for an extra £9.50. Details: 0161-238 5206.

SINGLES aged 30 to 50 can be pampered for a weekend from November 30 with Solo's

Holidays at Springs Health Hydro, Pocklington, Leicestershire. The £245 price includes three nights' full board, treatment and entertainment. Details: 0181-951 2800.

COMPLETE Christmas shopping in one place over two days with an unlikely holiday offer from Andrews of Tideswell. The place? The Metro Centre, Gateshead. The price: £49, including dinner, B&B at the Swallow Hotel and return coach travel from Derbyshire, on November 22. Details: 01298 871222.

ELTON JOHN live at the Wembley Arena on December 20 is featured in a £99 package from Superbreak with a night's B&B at the Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow, and coach transfers to the concert. Details: 0161-238 5257.

RIDE IN the new year with two days' trekking through the Mourne Mountains from Drumgooland House Equestrian Centre, Northern Ireland. The £299 package includes a New Year's Eve dinner and party, a dinner and musical evening on January 1 and ends with tea at the stables on January 2. Details: 01396 811956

EUROPE

THE BLARNEY STONE and barmy Irish air are included on five-day escorted tours starting from Dublin on the next three Fridays and taking in Cork, Killarney and Tipperary. The £420 price from CIE Tours International includes four nights half-board, excursions, evening entertainment and return flights from UK airports. Details: 0990 143910.

THE NORTH AFRICAN coast is warmer than Britain at the moment and prices are low: a fortnight's self-catering in Tunisia with Page & Moy, including a flight from Heathrow on Tuesday, costs £249. Details: 0116-250 7116.

ANOTHER deal to the Mediterranean, a week's Airtours package to Malta for £189 with half-board, is available on Tuesday from Stansted. Details from Co-op Travelcare: 0541 500388.

CYPRUS for long-stay winter holidays is available from Odyssey Holidays with flights from Gatwick on November 23 and 26 and January 7. Four nights at a beach hotel in Limassol costs £499 a person,

including half-board and car hire. Twelve weeks' self-catering in Paphos costs £419, including car hire. Details: 0181-343 9090.

SKIING in Sweden is becoming so popular that ten British companies are now offering winter packages. One of the best deals is a fly/drive holiday with Scandinavian Travel Service. Fly to Oslo, drive to Sälen for a week's self-catering from £298 a person based on five sharing. Details: 0171-559 6666.

IF SKI-MAD friends surround you, take advantage of a deal from Leisure Direction Ski, formerly French Impressions, which will take eight people in two cars across the Channel on December 13 for a week's self-catering in La Cuzco for £32 a head. Details: 0181-324 3031.

SEEING Santa in snowland is so much in demand that Cosmos is increasing the number of Santa specials to Finnish Lapland next month. Prices start from £589 an adult and £479 a child for four-day trips from Gatwick or Manchester on December 8 and include full-board. Details: 0161-480 5799.



Four nights in Venice for the price of three is on offer from Citalia, starting on weekdays between December 1 and 10. The £256 price includes B&B at a three-star hotel, flights from Gatwick and the chance to pre-book seats for Vivaldi concerts. Details: 0181-686 5533

SUNSHINE and water sports are still plentiful in Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba and Longwood. Holidays has week-long packages available from next Monday and the following one for £255, including return flights from Luton and B&B at a choice of hotels. Details: 0181-551 4494.

THE THAI baht has dropped in value so spectacularly that good deals are available at quality hotels. A fortnight's B&B at a beach hotel in Koh Samui, with Tropical Places and including a flight from Heathrow on Tuesday, costs £679. Flights on other days cost £70 more. Details: 01342 825123.

AUSTRALIA for £299 return is on offer from Austravel, but you must leave either on Sunday from Manchester for Sydney or on Monday from Gatwick for Perth. Details: 0173 734 7755.

SEATTLE, where the lights now shine brightly after the 1970s depression, is available to students and under-26s for £277 return with Campus Travel. Depart by December

14 and return within a year. Details: 0171-730 2101.

THE Pyramids at new year are on offer from Bales Tours as part of an eight-day trip to Egypt, leaving Heathrow on December 29 and including Cairo, the Valley of the Kings and the Temples of Thebes (Luxor). Price: £755 including flights and B&B. Details: 01306 885991.

A 14-DAY Far East cruise leaving from Singapore on January 3 to Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia is available from The Cruise Line at £3,080, including London-Singapore flights and all food and drink. Details: 01273 835252.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Australia struggle with back injuries

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

GREAT BRITAIN reported a clean bill of health yesterday for the deciding match of the British Gas series at Elland Road on Sunday, but Australia have more than wounded pride from the defeat at Old Trafford to trouble them.

Three of their backs — Andrew Evinghaus, Brett Mullins and Ryan Girdler — are nursing injuries.

A knock to his sternum is unlikely to prevent Evinghaus's participation. Australia will muster all the experience that they can to maintain their 27-year dominance over Britain and there is still no finer defensive centre in the game — as Paul Newlove, his opposite number, found to his cost in Australia's opening victory at Wembley.

Evinghaus's reassuring presence is made doubly important by the likely absence of his centre partners from the first two matches: Mullins has a burst blood vessel in a leg and Girdler a knee ligament problem, although he has resumed training.

Darren Smith, no stranger at centre, having scored three tries in the Brisbane Broncos' world club championship final victory, is set to move out of the pack, with the experienced Brad Clyde — who is now fully recovered from a fall — installed at loose forward.

The line-ups will be announced today. Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, wanted an extra 24 hours to fine-tune his pack, where he may be tempted to start with Simon Houghton and push Chris Joynt into the front row.

Goodway must balance the impact Houghton made as a substitute at Old Trafford and cutting down his options on the bench.

If Andy Farrell feels the weight of history, "it's not apparent. The Britain captain exuded a quiet confidence yesterday. Obviously, everyone is aware that Australia haven't been beaten in a series

for many years," he said. "If we concentrate too much on that, we're not concentrating on the job. We know the areas where we have to improve to win."

A healthy dose of realism was supplied by the Australian in the Britain camp. Shaun McRae, Goodway's assistant and part of the Australia coaching set-up on the 1990 and 1994 tours, said: "We feel Britain can play better and will have to in order to match Australia."

Their reaction to defeat will be immaculate, preparation and to draw on the experience of Walters, Daley, Evinghaus and Clyde in the pressure situation."

Alan Hunte, the Britain wing, is set to join Hull Sharks, newly-promoted to the Super League next season, after he submitted a second transfer request at St Helens, where he has been at odds with the club's board since August.

Bradford Bulls also made a recent offer for him, but St Helens will seriously consider a £500,000 package by Hull, which also involves Steve Prescott and Simon Booth.

The proposed deal is Hull's first step under the new ownership of David Lloyd, the former tennis player, towards strengthening their squad and appealing supporters who objected to the sale of Tevita Vakona, the prolific Tonga centre, to Bradford.

"Hull haven't spoken to me personally, but they have to the club," Hunte said. "I've had 8½ great years at Saints, but I am unhappy with the way that the club's being run."

Castleford Tigers are to consult shareholders and supporters about a move to a new stadium at Whitworth, near the M62. The West Yorkshire club is now in a position to finalise an agreement over land owned by Wakefield Council. It has signed a £250,000 three-year kit deal with Olympic sportswear.

Education provides Wright choice

SARAH POTTER



Marketing men seduce would-be sporting heroes by telling them to buy the product, and "just do it". Others believe in the less dreamy theory that behind every top player stands a coach. If so, Lucilla Wright, 17, the bright young hockey player of Olton and England, is only one pace ahead of a man finding it increasingly difficult to stay in the shadows.

Gavin Featherstone has guided his club to the top division of the women's national league. He is abrasive or charming, depending on who you talk to. One thing, though, is certain — he is responsible for the development of many of the country's top young hockey players and, with National Lottery money nudging international players towards full-time commitment, he keeps their feet firmly on the ground.

At the England Under-21 coach, his demands are exacting. Before the Junior World Cup in Seoul last August, he thought nothing of telephoning his players at 6am to ensure that they were up and running. Strict diets had to be followed. He does not, however, believe in too much, too soon and some remarks that he has made have clearly irked the hockey hierarchy.

"Teenage drop-out follows teenage burn-out," he said. "Insensitive over-use is not helpful."

Wright has reason to be grateful for such care and attention. Her skills and dogged determination, earned a selection call from Maggie Souyave, the England coach, for last summer's World Cup qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe and she has been



Wright's outstanding potential on the hockey field has already caught the eye of an impressed England coach

handed a National Lottery grant to help her in her sport. It is a pity that when the next big international event, the World Cup, takes place in Holland next May, Wright will also be taking her A-levels.

Indeed, the clash is indicative of a deeper problem. Selectors want to satisfy the clamour call for youth, there are other issues, such as education, at stake.

Teenage development is a hot issue to a club like Olton, which has eight of its 16-strong squad under the age of 20. Everyone agrees that Wright is one of hockey's brightest prospects, but the timing of her development is less clear and Souyave will have to address the issue before announcing her World Cup training squad.

"Hockey is changing because we've got a lot more funding now," Souyave said.

"After Christmas, it will be a semi-professional time for the players chosen."

"What we've done in the past year will be very indicative of what we select. Lucilla is certainly in the forefront and it's going to be an interesting time as to whether

her Einstein path," Lucilla Wright said, "but, if I get the grades, I would like to go to university and become a physiotherapist."

Again, like her sister, she wants to continue playing at Olton, which is as much a testament to the club's social

lucrative fees, but whether the top players can follow suit remains to be seen. Professionalism might hasten an overhaul of the competitive domestic structure that places too many demands on its performers, especially the young, it might ensure better planning for our national squads, but it can never be as liberating as a full education.

Wright's parents are playing their part. "They bring me back to reality," she said. "They want me to go as far as possible, but more than that, they want me to go to school, pass my exams and lead a normal life. I'm not like a total hockey geek."

Featherstone described exactly what she is: "An exceptional talent for British hockey." The most immediate gold medal, though, will be a place at university — as long as it is somewhere close to Olton.

'Everyone agrees that she is one of hockey's brightest prospects'

she can do this alongside her education."

That education means exams in biology, business studies, physical education and general studies, which will be taken at Bromsgrove School, where Wright's older sister, Sally, also an England Under-21 international, went before her. Sally Wright is now studying medicine.

"I'm not sure I can follow in

Top coaches can now earn

looking for something special and I couldn't settle down."

Burden, who had reached the last 16 of the Grand Prix, led 4-1 in the eighth frame, but Dale produced a 50 clearance to keep the match alive.

The prospect of defeat confronted Dale again in the ninth frame, but Burden, who beat him 5-0 in the qualifying competition of the German Open this season, overcut a brown to a baulk pocket when an additional blue would have secured victory. Dale cleared to pink to trail 5-4

before adding the closing two frames.

Matthew Stevens, a surprise semi-finalist at the Grand Prix, compiled the first century break, 105, during a 6-3 victory over Jamie Woodman.

Willie Thorne, runner-up to Steve Davis in the UK championship 12 years ago, highlighted a 6-2 win over Peter McCullagh with breaks of 81 and 75, while John Read, of Wolverhampton, progressed to meet Stephen Hendry, the title-holder, by rallying to beat Michael Judge 6-3.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Silk Cut loses position

SAILING: The second leg of the Whitbread Round The World Race continues to produce swings of fortune among those chasing the leader, *Swedish Match*. Yesterday, less than 17 miles covered five boats scrapping for position in the lower half of the fleet, with Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, in *Silk Cut*, slipping to eighth place.

Smith's young navigator, Steve Hayles, was feeling the pressure, as the British boat dropped down another position. "We are concentrating on *Merit Cup* and *Chessie Racing* at present, with a big emphasis on working south," Hayles reported.

Irish highs

BOWLS: Ireland continued to dominate the European indoor team championship in Jersey yesterday, maintaining their eight-point overnight lead in the final round of the women's pairs and triples in the morning and then notching up wins in the opening men's singles and fours events to stretch their advantage to nine points over England, the defending champions.

Lara clear

CRICKET: Warwickshire have cleared another hurdle in their negotiations to sign Brian Lara for next season. Steve Causton, chief executive of the West Indies Cricket Board, confirmed yesterday that Lara's commitments with Trinidad and Tobago in the Red Stripe Cup were "unlikely to extend too far into April".

Japan date

GOLF: Lee Westwood, after winning the Volvo Masters and finishing runner-up in the Sarazen World Open in Georgia, has moved on to Japan, where today he starts his defence of the Sumitomo Masters, a title he gained by beating Jeff Sluman and Costantino Rocca in a play-off.

TENNIS: BRITISH CHAMPION TURNS ON THE POWER TO MAINTAIN HIS GRIP ON NATIONAL TITLE

Henman will not make U-turn on Telford

BY ALEX RAMSAY

THE long goodbye has begun — in more ways than one. Tim Henman launched his final campaign at the Guardian Direct national championships with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Nick Weal yesterday and then went on to reaffirm that he would not be playing in Telford again.

"It is good to come and support the event," Henman said. "I really want to win, but if I lose it is not the be all and end all. It would not be a setback in my career. From a personal point of view I have nothing to gain from this. I've always enjoyed it here, but a week's rest could be more beneficial."

Certainly Henman did not seem

bothered that Weal played exceptionally well, fending off five match points at 4-6, 4-5 before taking the second set and forcing Henman to move up a gear. "At times I was a little careless," a relaxed Henman said.

The national championships have come a long way. With the interest surrounding Henman and Greg Rusedski, selling tickets has not been a problem, but take away the two top attractions and the event reverts to its former low-key status.

For its part, Guardian Direct has stated that it will continue to be

involved with the Lawn Tennis Association, but the contract next year has yet to be finalised. The unofficial line is that it will support the nationals, but probably not to the same extent.

The company is also putting its money behind the new tournament to be staged in London next February, the £480,000 Guardian Direct Cup, featuring, understandably, Henman and Rusedski.

Jo Durie, who supported the nationals through thick and thin, believes that Henman has got it wrong. During 13 appearances at the nationals, she

won the title seven times and earned more than £100,000. In the early days she was in Henman's position, sitting at the upper end of the world rankings.

"Yes, of course it was difficult to come back here," she said. "It was nerve racking at times and frustrating. I was playing against people with nothing to lose and I had everything to lose. There were times when I was a real pain and I wondered what I was doing here."

"It is very important that we keep the roll going that has been generated with Tim and Greg. You have to give something back."

SQUASH: ENGLAND BRACED FOR FINLAND AFTER OLD FIRM CRUSH GERMANY

Frustrated Marshall left waiting in the wings

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN KUALA LUMPUR

ENGLAND will meet Finland in the quarter-finals of the world team championship today after a confident 3-0 defeat of Germany in their final pool A match yesterday. Playing what could be called "the old firm" of Simon Parke, Del Harris and Chris Walker, three of the quartet who won the championship last

time in Cairo two years ago, England dropped only 15 points in the first two decisive rubbers and 18 in the third-string dead rubber.

On the sidelines, Peter Marshall, who failed rather worryingly against Canada on Tuesday, sat twitching a racket in his hands, plainly longing to get back among the action. "We will not play him against Finland, although we are keeping our options open for Australia in the semi-

finals," Stuart Courtney, the England team manager, said.

Australia face South Africa, whose first string, Craig Wapnick, gave the new world champion, Rodney Eyles, all sorts of trouble in the World Open last week. Egypt should cruise through against Pakistan and Canada are expected to beat Malaysia.

Wales, Scotland and Ireland are in the play-offs for ninth place.

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HITACHI

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

TRINICULO
(a) In *The Tempest*, Alonso's jester, made lugubrious by drink. He spends his time with Caliban and Stephano, plotting to lasso the Sorcerer in Prospero's place. For most of the time his wits are soured in sack, but he has occasional flashes of asperity to remind us of his true calling.

CLOTEN
(b) Cymbeline's stepson, the man Cymbeline has in mind as husband for his daughter Imogen. As his name suggests, Cloten is a crass, unthinking fool, mocked by his own lords behind his back, easily persuaded to disguise himself as Imogen's husband, follow her into exile and rape her. He is loud and smooth, and when he quarrels with true nobility, in the form of the King's long-lost (and disguised) son Guiderius, he loses his head, both figuratively and literally.

FREDERICK
(c) In *As You Like It*, the wicked usurper who takes his brother's lands and dukesdom and drives him into exile. He is a clone of Otter, and his part changes as abruptly from the bad (at the start of the play, when he banishes Rosalind) to good (when he meets a holy hermit, sees the error of his ways, makes restitution and retires to a monastery — all without once stepping onstage).

LONGAVILLE
(d) In *Love's Labour's Lost*, an attendant lord on Ferdinand, one of the four young gallants at the heart of the play. Though he is described (by the Princess) as "a merry mocking lord" and one of the "short-lived wits" who "withers as they grow", his lines seldom bear out this report, and his role is chiefly to be one voice in an ensemble.

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FOOTBALL: IRELAND FOLLOW VETERAN STRIKER TOWARDS WORLD CUP

Cascarino plans French finale

For Tony Cascarino, time is of the essence. He has perhaps one more match at international level, should Ireland lose to Belgium in the second leg of their World Cup qualifying play-off in Brussels on Saturday, perhaps six months more on the club circuit, should his contract with AS Nancy, the French second division side, not be renewed at the end of the season. At 35, the queue of prospective employers is dwindling.

Cascarino shrugs it off with almost casual indifference. After 16 years and seven clubs, there is little left to fear. Old centre forwards never die, anyway. They simply fade away. He will reappear in some new guise somewhere, contributing in the same, honest fashion that has characterised his career. Did not Wimbledon inquire about his health only a few weeks ago?

"I'm enjoying it at Nancy," he said. "We're top of the second division, going for promotion and we've got a good young side with some very promising players. The club has always had a good reputation for bringing through the younger lads and you can see why. If we go up, who knows? I might have another year left in me. I might not, I'll have to see what's available." *C'est la vie.*

Adjusting to France has not proved a problem. He joined Marseilles on a free transfer from Chelsea in 1994, scoring 77 goals in two seasons, before moving on a year ago. "Nancy

Russell
Kempson
celebrates
an unlikely
revival

needed a striker and I fancied a change," he said. He also likes the calm Gallic existence. "It's good to go out, have a nice meal, just relax. Gone are the days of drinking and clubbing."

Gone are the days, too, of the lanky, lumbering central strikers who made up for lack of skill and pace by physical presence and aerial power. If the centre back sustained a lump or two, so be it. If the goalkeeper got unfairly judged, tough.

Cascarino, in many respects, is a relic of the past. Nowadays, at home and abroad, centre forwards are built mostly for speed. It is not enough to bully an opponent or bulldoze a way through; managers look for more subtlety, more grace and guile. And, naturally, more goals.

In April, after Ireland's dismal 3-2 defeat against Macedonia in Skopje, Cascarino's prowess wearing the green shirt appeared over. He played when palpably unfit, such was his desire to help the cause, and was replaced at half-time. "I was going to drop him from the squad," Mick

McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said. "I thought he was finished."

Five months later, Cascarino scored twice in the 2-1 victory against Lithuania in Vilnius that effectively secured Ireland's play-off berth. McCarthy sung his praises and thanked the Lord for giving him the good sense to reconsider.

Cascarino is the only squad member to have played a role in Ireland's 11 qualifying ties, in which he has scored seven times. His 19 goals in 75 internationals is only one short of Frank Stapleton's Ireland record. Impressive statistics, yet meaningless if he and his country do not reach their third successive World Cup finals.

Ireland have to score at least once on Saturday, after the disappointing 1-1 draw against Belgium at Lansdowne Road last month, to retain a chance of going on to France next year. "If I don't score, but we get through, that's fine," Cascarino said. "We can't play any worse than we did in Dublin and, anyway, we tend to play better away from home. I think we made Belgium look better than they were."

"It's a bit strange, really. When I was on my way to Marseilles three years ago, I never imagined I'd be in the position I'm in now. Perhaps there's some sort of destiny at work here — a chance to end my international career in France in the World Cup finals. Who'd have thought it?"



Cascarino celebrates against Romania last month

McCarthy admits concern about Houghton's injury

RAY HOUGHTON remains a doubtful starter for the second leg of Ireland's World Cup play-off against Belgium in Brussels on Saturday. The Reading midfielder took no part in yesterday's training session. "Ray has a heel injury, which is an obvious concern, and we will just have to wait and see," the Ireland manager, Mick McCarthy, said.

David Kelly, the Tranmere Rovers striker, and the Everton defender, Terry Phelan, also missed training but McCarthy stressed that this was purely a precaution and both would be available for selection.

After the draw at Lansdowne Road, McCarthy is expecting a tough struggle. "There will be physical commitment ... but size and weight don't

always matter. Belgium are a big, strong team. But you have to stand up to people. Billy Bremner, Johnny Giles, Kenny Dalglish and Toto Schillaci were not the biggest of players but that never worried them on the field of play," he said.

McCarthy will not name his team until an hour before the start and friends in keep Belgium guessing whether he will play five in midfield, with Tony Cascarino as a lone striker, or opt for a more orthodox 4-4-2 formation. But with Ireland needing to score to cancel out Belgium's previous away goal, the probability is that Cascarino will be partnered by David Connolly, of Feyenoord, with Lee Carsley, of Derby County, likely to win his third cap in midfield.

Qatar miss rich rewards as Saudi Arabia take spoils

SAUDI Arabia ended Qatar's World Cup hopes with a 1-0 win in Doha yesterday that secured their place in the finals in France next year. Mohammed Shahrani struck a shot under Aamer al Kaabi, Qatar's reserve goalkeeper, in the 63rd minute to decide the match and the top spot in Asian group A. The Saudis also qualified for the finals in the United States in 1994.

The result meant that the favourites, Iran, dropped to second and must face Japan in a play-off in Malaysia on Sunday. The winner will qualify for the finals and the loser will play Australia over two legs, on November 22 and 29. Japan finished second in Asian group B behind South Korea, who took the other automatic spot.

Qatar, who had won their previous three matches to force their way back into contention, had gone into the final group match looking for a victory that would have secured qualification for the tiny Gulf emirate. Qatar's rulers offered large cash prizes, homes and cars to the players if they qualified.

The Qataris started in enterprising fashion, putting pressure on their neighbours, who brought a large army of fans to the Al Arabi club stadium. Shahrani's shot was a rare chance to score.

Saudi Arabia, who dismissed their coach, Eduardo Vinga, and brought in Otto Pfister halfway through the group matches, must ultimately thank Qatar for their top spot. Qatar beat Iran 2-0 at the weekend.

Tied by red tape and running in circles

If you are fit enough, and determined enough, you can run your way through deserts, up mountains and across continents. But you can hardly move at all if your ankles are hobbled by red tape.

Paving the ground in Egypt today are two runners who had the dream of padding their way, entirely on foot, the length of the continent of Africa — from Alexandria in the north to Cape Town in the south.

They had hoped to raise more than £1 million for two charities — Save the Children and the Born Free Foundation — with a 6,200-mile cross-country run that had never been done before.

Nicholas Bourne, 27, and Chris Rainbow, 29, set out from Alexandria on October 1. Their spirits were high, their bodies well prepared and soon they were covering 45 miles a day.

They had had a few problems — an upset stomach, some dizzy spells and what they describe as a couple of the biggest blisters ever seen on the African continent. But blisters were nothing to the trouble that awaited them.

Bourne is something of a running adventurer. At 18, he competed for Great Britain as a junior hurdler, since then he has worked as a model and set up his own sports promotion business. He met his fellow runner, Rainbow, after placing an advert in a running magazine for someone to join him on what he calls his "spiritual odyssey" through Africa.

Rainbow, a primary school teacher from Skegness in Lincolnshire, is an experienced athlete. He completed a run from John O'Groats to Land's End in 32 days in 1995.

The runners are accompanied by a six-strong team, including Bourne's sister, Emma, the chief organiser of the trip. They travel in four ex-Army Land Rovers, donated by the RAC.

Once in the desert, armed with heart-monitors, isotonic drinks and 22 pairs of running shoes each, their training started to pay off. The runners would get up each morning at 3.30, breakfast on pasta, and set out at 4am for the first of



three two-hour runs of the day, to avoid the heat. They covered around 15 miles in each stretch and their relentless progress made the outrageous idea of the end-to-end continental foot-slog seem possible.

But 17 days into their journey, the expedition ran into the sand. An Egyptian major ordered them to halt at Qasir on the Red Sea coast, warning that ahead lay a no-go militarized zone between them and the border with Sudan. Effectively, they could run no farther.

The frustrated runners opted not to kick their heels, but to keep their bodies and minds in shape for the thou-

'Blisters were nothing to the trouble that awaited'

sands of miles yet to come. They have been running around in circles in Egypt ever since.

Anyone who is mad enough, or bold enough, to try to go on foot from Cairo to the Cape is guaranteed trouble. Wherever you turn, you run into civil war, uprisings, deserts, swamps or the dangers of being kidnapped. Crossing Sudan is virtually impossible. A full-scale civil war has been going on for decades; guerrilla fighters roam the countryside and the areas they do not control are mostly swamps.

East or west from Egypt is just as difficult. Libya, to the west, is hostile and has turned down previous charity ventures, including Richard Branson's request to overfly in a balloon.

To the east are Saudi Arabia, sticky for visas, and Yemen, where kidnapping of westerners is rife. Further dangers lurk in Ethiopia, where the fierce Danakil tribe is still apt to kill intruding strangers, and Somalia, where tribal fighting has

halted only because of the fact that much of the country is flooded.

With the expedition halted, Emma Bourne headed back to Cairo in a desperate attempt to hack her way through the tangle of red tape. In the meantime, Bourne's mother, May Grandy, is running round in circles back in London, employing her own brand of shuttle diplomacy — skulking energetically between envoys of Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea.

With the Egyptians still refusing to grant passage to the Sudan border, and with the ever-present danger of landmines there, the only realistic option, if the expedition is to continue, would seem to be to take a ferry from Suva, sail down the Red Sea and therefore bypass Sudan by boat. This, of course, would kick an enormous hole in the runners' original dream.

Grandy is still hopeful that she is within a step of charming a deal that will let the runners through. If, in the name of sport and charity, she can cobble up an agreement, getting the Egyptians, Sudanese and Eritreans to deal with each other, she will have pulled off more than the peacekeepers of the United Nations. And the Run for Africa will have achieved more than its organisers could ever have dreamed of.

In the days of the Ancient Greeks, sport managed to flourish for centuries, despite the dangers of almost non-stop wars. Once every four years, out of respect for the ancient Olympic Games, warring cities and states would honour a truce to allow safe passage to Olympia for their champion athletes.

Things are not so easy these days, as the would-be cross-continent runners are discovering. They are determined that nothing will make them give up, but what they really need in their back-up crew is not a mechanic to fix their trucks or a nurse to tend their wounds, but a diplomat to get them across borders.

Meanwhile, they still run round in circles in Egypt — still sadly taping their blisters, but somehow still nursing their dream.

JOHN BRYANT

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This hand from the BBL Premier League has a similar theme to yesterday's. Would you rather defend or play Four Hearts?

Dealer East	East-West game	IMPs
♠ A8653 ♥ Q ♦ AQ10873 ♣ 5	♠ 44 ♥ 7652 ♦ KQJ108763 ♣ K9	♠ Q7 ♥ 76 ♦ 4 ♣ KQJ108763

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: Five of clubs.

The usual line in Four Hearts was for declarer to win the club lead, draw trumps and exit with a club. That would have succeeded if East had won and innocently led a diamond from a holding including the queen. With the distribution as it is that fails, and in any case it relies on a defensive error.

Better is to play for the only distribution that will guarantee the contract. First, declarer has to assume the clubs are 8-1 (quite possible — after all East has opened Three Clubs at adverse vulnerability). So to make the best use of his only entry to dummy (the eight of hearts), declarer should play for West to hold the ace and queen of diamonds, and for East to hold the queen of spades.

After winning the first club declarer draws trumps and leads the king of diamonds. That leaves West helpless. However he defends, declarer will eventually set up a dia-

mond for a club discard. The fortuitous doubleton queen of spades in East's hand is not necessary — even if East had been 3-1-8, after winning the king of diamonds with the ace West would have to give declarer an extra entry to play spades, or play spades himself.

Finally, do you see the defence that does beat Four Hearts? West had to start with ace and another diamond. East ruffs; and now declarer has an inescapable club loser as well as the ace of spades. You should opt to defend.

□ The Times Book of Bridge 1, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, BT Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 p&p).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fine Score
London grandmaster Jon Speelman was one of the heroes of the English team's performance in the World Team Championship which finished last week in Lucerne, Switzerland. Speelman scored 4 points from 6 games and many felt that it would have been more profitable to employ Speelman in the remaining three rounds of the tournament, instead of relying on reserves.

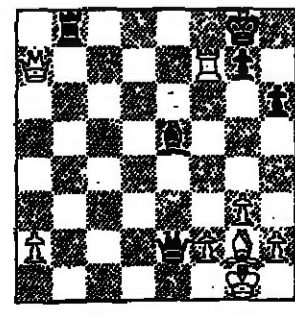
Speelman's play is a pleasing blend of massive strategic vision allied with an acute tactical ability, whenever danger threatens. His win today against a representative from Cuba shows his aggressive spirit and breadth of vision in action. Particularly worthy of note is his decision to avoid castling.

White: Jon Speelman
Black: Juan Borges
World Team Championship, Lucerne 1997

English Opening	Black resigns
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. Nc3	e6
4. e3	Bg7
5. N3	Be5
6. d4	Bxc3+
7. c5	Ne5
8. bxc3	Qc6
9. Nxe5	Qxe5
10. e4	Nf6
11. Qe2	Qc6
12. Be2	0-0
13. f4	Qa5
14. g4	h6
15. h4	Rf7
16. Kf2	Ng4
17. Rg1	Nf6
18. h4g4	Qc6
19. Qf2	Qc6
20. Qe4	Ne7
21. Rad1	Qc6
22. Rf2	Re8
23. Qc3	Qc2

White to play. This position is from the game Reti v Przepiorka, Marienbad 1925. White is two pawns up but bishops of opposite colour increase Black's drawing chances. However, there is a way of breaking through instantly. What is it?

Solution on page 43



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 WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55pm).
 N 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1083, 1089.
 Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane

Your children's first lesson in competition

All that any devoted parent wants is to be able to educate his offspring in a way which ensures that one proud day — God willing — that child will be able to show off the fruits of his education by looking his dotting father straight in the eye and saying: "Dad, don't be so stupid!"

The hunt for just such an education becomes more frantic every day as even left-leaning parents start buying private education for the same reason they start buying Mercedes: because they can now afford it, and the badge looks impressive — with private schools having the bonus over a Mercedes that nobody actually tries to steal your school badge. There is, of course, a way of ensuring that your child gets a top-class education from a state school — even if you live well outside its catchment area — but it involves

becoming Prime Minister first. Actually it may be easier to become PM than to get into many private schools in London.

"The climate," according to Alan, father of ten-year-old Lea, "is one of panic. The current system creates winners and losers — and obviously you want your kid to be among the winners." Private education is against everything that Alan — himself a privately educated American — stands for. But in the end he had the moral courage to abandon his principles and cram his daughter for the entrance exam for Palmers Green High School for Girls, the subject of last night's *Modern Times* (BBC2).

Its headmistress, Stan Grant, pegs the hurdles high, so only the keenest jumpers get a place. That goes for 24-year-olds trying for the nursery section, too. "It's obviously important for our marketing strategy that we have a good appearance in the league tables," said

Mrs Grant. "People see our girls walking along the streets and they say to them: 'Where do you go to school?' They are our best marketing tool; they are our product and we're proud of them."

If Mrs Grant thought that letting her school appear on the BBC would swell the number of applications, then she might have miscalculated. Last week, the grubby greed of Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel on the day the IRA blighted the Grand National, which we witnessed in the new fly-on-the-wall series *Hotel*, must have persuaded many viewers to look elsewhere for a room the next time they are seeking a bed in Liverpool. After hearing Mrs Grant and her fellow teachers stuff under their breath that one girl was "quite a confident little thing, but I'm not sure about the background," or that another was "a bit of a pudding, really," I wonder

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

whether parents will now shuffle their little girls towards Palmers Green with quite the same gusto. Lea, who was offered an interview (and later a place, which her conscience-stricken parents declined in favour of a selective state school), was smart enough to know that she should be economical with the truth when the time came to meet Mrs Grant: "I'll not lie to be that much," she lied, "but I'll have

to stretch the truth a bit." A life in politics beckons for Lea: this engaging girl could be penning the anti-hunting and tobacco advertising manifestos before you or I could say Formula One.

And when the headmistress asked Lea in her interview what she would most like to change in the world if given the chance, it became clear that Lea had soaked up more pressure than betrayed by her confident smile. "The schooling system," she replied, forgetting to lie. "Because I don't like tests. Some people break under their nerves. And I think it's so awful that some people, if they don't get into the school of their choice, then sometimes get so unhappy, and it almost ruins their life." For the first time in the programme, breezy Mrs Grant looked as if she felt slightly uncomfortable. Though that didn't stop her pushing the next bunch of 24-year-olds

through two tests before considering them for a nursery place.

Lord knows what Mrs Grant would make of the girls in *Witness: Bleeding Hearts* (Channel 4), which spent an hour eavesdropping on under-age, mostly inarticulate teenagers talking about snogging and sex. The director, Witold Starecki, said he was aiming "to make a film that gets right inside their experiences. This is real-life drama of teenage life that has more power and intensity than any soap... teenagers are breaking the rules." Crickey! We never thought we'd see that being done again in our lifetimes.

Like a teasing girl who doesn't go all the way, it was a letdown. If you've ever been a teenager yourself, nothing here came as much of a surprise. As one of the mothers said to her daughter: "I was 15 once, you know? If you've got your

own 14-year-old, you had probably heard all of this stuff first-hand anyway, which must have made it as entrancing as watching a stranger on television perform any other aspect of your domestic routine, such as putting the bins out (except, maybe, if you're Woody Allen). Starecki needs closer parental supervision and should seek his Mummy's permission before making another documentary.

As it happens, *Home Front* (BBC2) introduced us to the concept of the "Rent-a-Mom", an American called Sandee Corshen. She comes to your house and nags you to tidy up your room. Or "to make the most of your storage space", as she puts it — though not the best of your wallet, since she charges \$250 an hour. Who knows, if she also does your worrying for you while your ten-year-old girl takes her Palmers Green exam, or 14-year-old son asks for condoms, she might even be worth it.

- BBC1**
- 6.00 am Business Breakfast (72416)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (77874)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7564226)
9.25 Style Challenge (5923651)
9.50 Kilo (75623413)
10.30 Change That (9083515)
11.35 The Really Useful Show (7945885)
11.35 Real Rooms The makeover team transform a Plymouth journalist's dowdy study into an inspirational retreat (7510446)
12.00 News (7); regional news and weather (6335587)
12.05 pm Cell My Bluff (4888315)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (2354394)
1.00 News (7) and weather (70961)
1.30 Regional News (7) (84548706)
1.40 The Weather Show (59928771)
1.45 Neighbours (7) (4448139)
2.05 Quilley (7) (2048864)
2.55 Terry and June (7) (7138077)
3.30 Funnies (6218688) 3.35 Playdays (7) (8284040) 3.55 The Silver Broom (6372416) 4.20 Mr Wym (7) (916160)
4.35 Smart (7) (1953329) 5.00 Newsworld (7) (5556752) 5.10 Byker Grove (7) (9407752)
5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (414400)
6.00 News (7) and weather (139)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (7) (616)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer magazine (7) (5597)
7.30 EastEnders Joe pours out his heart and begs Sarah for forgiveness — will she take him back? (7) (503)
8.00 Animal Hospital An ambulance driver rescues a very hungry cat (7) (8745)
8.30 Holiday Raps A six-part series following the 1997 summer season through the eyes of the top operators: representatives (7) (4732)
9.00 News (7); regional news and weather (9232)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Wedding Day and Dorothy are struck by last-minute nerves on their wedding day, but they can rest assured — best man Tony has taken charge of the final preparations (7) (54394)
10.00 They Think It's All Over Nick Hancock hosts the fast-moving sports quiz, with guests Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, and John McEwan (7) (11145)
10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk The guests are Ben Elton and Neil Hamilton (24855)
11.00 Question Time The panel is Brian Wilson, MP, John Redwood, MP, Hugh Dykes and Joan Smith (7) (579708)
12.05 am Betrayal of Silence (1989) Meg Foster stars as an assistant district attorney defending a young girl who has made serious allegations against the head of a renowned reform hospital. Courtroom drama with Joanne Whalley-Kilmer and Alex Carter. Directed by Jeffrey Woolnough (7) (5851288) WALES: Aunty — the Inside Story (6237559) 1.05 News and weather (9700511) 1.10 BBC News 24
1.35 Weather (9430153)
1.40 John Birt News 24 (5603738)

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- BBC2**
- 7.00 am See Hear Breakfast News (7) (9680413)
7.15 Teletubbies (7) (4018236) 7.40 Smurfs Adventures (7) (2485077) 8.05 Blue Peter (7) (7) (2485077) 8.30 News and weather (7) (7) (2485077) 8.50 Johnson and Friends (7) (4664400) 8.45 The Record (9695955)
9.10 Numberline (1096131) 9.25 Magenta (7) (2248110) 9.45 Come Outside (4556884) 10.00 Teletubbies (66226) 10.30 Storyline (3014923) 10.45 The Experimenter (2487522) 11.05 Space Ark (9488874) 1.15 Zog Zog (1753787) 1.35 English Film (8061336) 1.55: Lifeschool (4461972) 12.20 pm Showcase (8337955)
12.30 Working Lunch (65400) 1.00 Barney (3004344) 1.05 Monty (3149387) 1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour (8408988)
2.10 Going, Going, Gone (6254919) 2.40 News (7) (2418688) 2.45 Westminster (7) (7175597) 3.25 News (7) (8186874) 3.30 The Village (7) (597) 3.55 Fit for a Queen (8238868)
4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (232) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (7) (1814400) 4.55 Esther (8691955) 5.30 Today's Day (868)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Odo is rushed to his home world when a mysterious illness strikes, but an unpleasant surprise awaits him (7) (268587)
6.45 Mr. Niles or Myer (7) (838752)
7.00 The Whitechapel (4158)
7.30 First Aid Robin Gibson reports on how duty-free bootleggers are using Dover as a base, through which to conduct their illegal activities (145) WALES: Just One Chance
8.00 Just One Chance Inside information on children's education for parents. This week, a look at parental choice (7) (6737) WALES: Nobel Causes
8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson test-drives the Land Rover Freelander (7) (2394)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Dick takes up the cause of animal rights after hilling a chipmunk (7) (651771)
9.25 Horizon: Antarctica The last of three Antarctic specials deals with global warming, revealing what would happen if the West Antarctic ice sheet melted (7) (891058)
10.15 Expanding Pictures New series of experimental shorts. The first stars Kylie Minogue (7) (532464)
10.30 Newsworld (7) (752752) 11.15 Late Review (597810) 11.55 Weather (60818) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (45172)
12.30 am BBC Learning Zone: The Making of Alan, Summers (7) (532464) World Painters (7) (1119) 8.00 Raging News (8580)
Teaching: Film and Media 4.30 Film Education 5.00 Teacher Training 5.30 North South Linking 6.00 The Global Car Industry 6.30 Which Body? (5631356)

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- HTV**
- 6.00 am GMTV (4283416)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7) (5636481)
9.55 Regional News (7) (8153110)
10.00 The Time, the Place (3032503)
10.30 This Morning (7) (4843985)
12.20 pm Regional News (7) (8324481)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (7) (2433619)
12.55 Shortland Street (2358110)
1.25 Home and Away (7) (5842233)
1.50 The Rockford Files (7) (7079336)
2.50 Verano (7970771)
3.20 News (7) (8161329)
3.25 Regional News (7) (8000400)
3.30 Pottery Park (3005348) 3.40 Wizards (1214400) 3.50 Kipper (1210824) 4.00 Sylvester and Tweety (9070394) 4.15 Jumanji (4684448) 4.40 Out of Sight (9041329)
5.10 A Country Practice (7) (7) (3032503)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (7) (760706)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (7) (504503)
6.25 Regional Weather (7) (317884)
6.30 Regional News (7) (787)
7.00 Emmerdale Jack breaks Sarah's ground rules (7) (1685)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (771)
7.30 The Big Story: Girls Behaving Badly A look at the hype surrounding "girl power" (771)
8.00 The Bill London gets in trouble (1923)
8.30 Dover New documentary series: Part 1: Dover (7) (2348)
9.00 Thief Takers Sister in Arms The team are left baffled by a spate of gem robberies until two sparring sisters attempt a robbery that goes horribly wrong (8042)
10.00 News at Ten (7) (33313)
10.30 Regional News (7) (150400)
10.40 In the Shadow of Evil (1994)
Thriller with Treat Williams, Margaret Colin and Timothy Busfield. Directed by Daniel Sackheim (4172488)
12.20 am WALES: The Big Story (1161820)
12.30 Short Story Cinema: Under the Car (7) (1161820)
12.50 The LADS (7) (6978153)
1.25 Funny Business (6212608)
1.55 The Loop (7) (8537462)
2.20 Late and Loud (7) (417545)
3.20 The Good Sex Guide Late (7) (4249443)
4.15 Jones and Jury (7) (5406320)
4.30 The Time, the Place (7) (11298)
5.00 The Pulse (7) (80820)
5.30 News (40627)

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- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2358110)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3032503)
5.50-6.00 Air Watch (155771)
6.25 Central News (416394)
6.55-7.00 Lifetime (41232)
10.40 The MORO Awards (8501619)
11.55 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (577313)
12.25 am Sound Bites (455830)
12.40 Funny Business (6982859)
1.15 Penny Mirth (6752172)
1.40 Rockmania (3667917)
2.40 God's Gift (882269)
3.35 Late and Loud (3104268)
4.30 Central Jobfinder '87 (2052795)
5.20 Asian Eye (8301424)
As HTV West except:
12.20 pm-12.30 Illuminations (6324481)
12.55 Home and Away (7552771)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (79452771)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9032503)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Life (40145)
12.20 am Weekly World (1161820)
4.35 The Time, the Place (93744358)
As HTV West except:
5.10 pm-5.40 Home and Away (9032503)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (435)
6.30-7.00 Rural Rides (787)
12.20 am Live at Jongleurs (1161820)
4.35 Beyond Reason (93744358)
5.00 Freescore (80820)
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2358110)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3032503)
6.25 Anglia News (416394)
6.55-7.00 What's On (451232)
12.20 am The Making of a Life Less Ordinary (1161820)
4.35 The Time, the Place (93744358)
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (97584)
9.00 Veggie (162771)
11.30 Powerhouse (3435)
12.00 Sesame Street (30226)
12.30 pm Ricki Lake (87888)
1.00 Skit Medivix (41313482)
1.15 Will Cooze Cooze (4636387)
1.30 Film: I Was a Male War Bride (70619)
3.30 Collector's Lot (865)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (400)
4.30 The Lonely Planet (684)
5.00 5 Pump (2771)
5.30 Countdown (936)
6.00 Newsworld (977436)
6.10 Heno (344329)
7.00 Popol y Cwm (618690)
7.25 Penybwyll Luch (801139)
8.00 On the Edge (8655)
8.30 Newsworld (3690)
9.00 Heller (2435)
11.00 Brookside (542941)
11.35 Dispatches (709435)
12.20 am Bombay Beat (8219153)
1.20-1.50 Natural Born Healers (8744207)

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- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55 am Sesame Street (30226) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (97584)
9.00 Schools: History in Action (2252771)
9.20 Geographical Eye (7) (2345435)
9.40 The Maths Programme (7) (7077630) 10.00 Middle English (7) (1884987) 10.15 La Petite Mole de Pierre (8265058) 10.30 Scientific Eye (7) (2470307) 10.50 Film and Video Showcase (2556981) 11.10 The Spanish Programme (1676884)
11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (3435)
12.00 Sesame Street (30226) 12.30 pm Light Lunch (2630787) 1.25 Gardens without Borders (7) (8319067)
1.40 Seven Thieves (1960) starring Edward G. Robinson as a disgraced scientist who plans a casino heist with the help of six specialists. With Rod Taylor, John Huston, and John Coline. Harry Hathaway directs (7) (1520055)
3.30 Collector's Lot (7) (685) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7) (400) 4.30 Countdown (7) (1161820) 4.55 Ricki Lake (7) (8658023) 5.30 Pet Rescue (7) (836)
6.00 Boy Meets World Rise-of-passage comedy (7) (857)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (7) (329)
7.00 Channel 4 News (7) (668801)
7.50 Golden Oldies Another golden wedding celebration (211481)
As HTV West except:
5.10 pm-5.40 Home and Away (9032503)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (435)
6.30-7.00 Rural Rides (787)
12.20 am Live at Jongleurs (1161820)
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7.00 Popol y Cwm (618690)
7.25 Penybwyll Luch (801139)
8.00 On the Edge (8655)
8.30 Newsworld (3690)
9.00 Heller (2435)
11.00 Brookside (542941)
11.35 Dispatches (709435)
12.20 am Bombay Beat (8219153)
1.20-1.50 Natural Born Healers (8744207)

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- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder 53 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videostar decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 53 are: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
6.00 am 5 News Early (2685597)
7.30 Milkshake (3448139) 7.35 Sickin' Around (7) (8605680) 8.00 Havalakoo (7) (7144315)
8.30 WideWorld: A Migrant's Heart Documentary series about human migration (5/10) (8594856)
9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (2620042) 10.00 Exclusive (7) (8727384) 10.30 Dwellers of the Deep: Citizens of the Coral (869400)
11.00 Lesza Show show chaired by Lesza Gibbons (7455348) 11.30 Double Espresso (94639348) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (7) (4894892) 12.30 pm Family Affairs (7) (8582481)
1.00 5 News Update (9704867) 1.05 Sunset Beach (7) (3351955) 2.00 5's Company. Live entertainment show (829023)
3.30 The First of the Few (1942, b/w). A Second World War propaganda movie telling the story of F.L. Mitchell, the designer of the Spitfire. Starring Leslie Howard, who also directed, and David Niven (2689313)
5.30 Wildlife Adventure participation game show (7) (3885503)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz without a host (3886416)
6.30 Family Affairs Weekday soap. Holly suggests a gay night (7) (3704888)
7.00 Exclusive Showbusiness gossip (5395042)
7.30 Dwellers of the Deep: Million Dollar Weed The fight to keep California help in its undersea forests (7) (878732)
8.00 Was I Based for Four Holiday advice. John Leslie and Anne Greenhalgh travel to Barbados (5477690)
8.30 5 News (7) (5380597)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme. The Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P), and Video PlusCode are trademarks of Camstar Development Ltd.

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision
SKY 1
6.00 am Morning Glory (75394) 6.00 Regis and Kelly Live (4577) 10.00 Animal World (3855) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (21818) 12.00 Cops (75394) 1.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 2.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 3.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 4.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 5.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 6.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 7.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 8.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 9.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 10.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 11.00 Jerry Springer (75394) 12.00 Jerry Springer (75394)
SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.00 am Breaking Away (1978) 7.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 8.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 9.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 10.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 11.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 12.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 1.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 2.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 3.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 4.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 5.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 6.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 7.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 8.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 9.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 10.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 11.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 12.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 1.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 2.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 3.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 4.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 5.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 6.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 7.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 8.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 9.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 10.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 11.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 12.00 am The Untouchables (1959) 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